Friday 5 December 1997

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INSIDE THE EYE **TODAY 32 PAGES** OF FILM, POP & CLASSICAL

Stallone: He could have been a contender





TODAÝ'S NEWS

Blair's key Bill pledges better schools

yardstick by which the Prime Minister wants his government to be judged - was published yesterday. The School Standards and Framework Bill will allow businesses to take over some local education authority functions and to be involved in the creation of 25 education action zones in deprived areas. New "super-heads" paid as much as £100,000 a year may run the zones, which will contain two or three secondary schools and their feeder primary schools. The Education Secretary gets unprecedented powers to intervene in failing schools and local education authorities. But teachers said the zones, which will be used to test educational experiments and be able to pay extra to attract the best teachers, could destabilise the entire education service, Page 5

Fayed bribes charge

The tycoon Tiny Rowland has claimed in High Court writs that his old adversary, Mohamed Al Fayed. offered him £10m to lie to a parliamentary committee on standards. The former head of Lonrho also alleges that the Harrods owner was prepared to hand him ownership of the shirtmakers Turnbull & Asser and tried to blackmail him. The allegations were "categorically" denied by Mr Fayed. Page 3

Winnie denies murder

Winnie Mandela denied any involvement in the murder of the 14-year-old activist known as Stompie at the close of a nine-day hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Johannesburg yesterday. In a bizarre and emotional scene at the end of the hearing, she embraced the boy's mother. Page 3

Opera resignations

The chairman and board of the Royal Opera House resigned yesterday as a matter of honour, following a damning Commons report. But the chief executive, Mary Allen, one of the committee's targets, is not going. She disclosed last night that she did offer to resign but said her offer was "emphatically and unanimously rejected by the board." Page 7



The Eye, page 32 Page 32 and the Eye, page 29 The Eye, page 30 Web address: http://www.

ndependent.co.uk

One runs into old school chums in the oddest of places



Prince and the pauper: Prince Charles unexpectedly meeting a former school mate, Clive Harold, in Clerkenwell, London yesterday Photograph: PA

might bump into one's old Visiting the London offices of the magazine for the homeless, the Big Issue, he looked taken inack when he was introduced to Clive Harold, 49, a former sweets," he said. pupil of Hill House School in Knightsbridge, London.

the two were in the same both had big ears and because his life was disintegrating. "I re- Issue from a pitch near Hol-

gether. "I reminded the Prince school friends, as the Prince of - how we used to walk from the Wales discovered yesterday, school to the Territorial Army ground near Sloane Square for football. He remembered that and he also remembered the neadmaster giving

"The Prince did not re-According to Mr Harold, only remember him because we while his career his flourishing,

One can never tell where one stream and played football to- he was obviously well known alised that I had not given born Tube station, and is re-

that from his privileged up- me in the end," Mr Harold bringing, he had become a said. showbiz columnist for Women's the mag written a book - The Uninvited - which he still carries with member me of course and I him as a "security blanket". But had lost everything."

enough time to my family and Mr Harold told the Prince friends. I suppose the booze got a single parent, is rebuilding his

"It was when my second Own, a fact later confirmed by marriage failed that things re- was strange that we should and one day I woke up in a life has had its twists and turns shop doorway in the Strand. I and so has his." Or as the Mr Harold now sells the Big

building his life. The Prince, as own life, albeit in slightly more salubrious surroundings.

Mr Harold commented: "It Prince said afterwards: "It just shows you, doesn't it?"

England draw a clear passage

England's quest to repeat their World Cup win of 1966 was given a boost last night when they were handed a comfortable first-round draw for next year's tournament in France.

Glenn Hoddle's team will open their campaign on 15 June in Marseilles against Tunisia, and will then play Romania and Colombia in their two other first-round games. Two of the four will progress to the second round and England should have no problems being one of them. Romania, the strongest of their opponents, have an ageing side, while Colombia and Tunisia should both prove beatable. Hoddle said: "It's not a bad draw. It could have been a lot worse."

For Scotland, it was a lot worse. They were drawn in the same group as Brazil, the World Cup holders and strong favourites to retain their title next year. Making up the numbers in their group are Norway. ranked 14 in the world to Scotland's 36, and Morocco, who are the type of underrated team that the Scots have most to fear.

Scotland start their World Cup on 10 June against Brazil in Paris, the opening game of the tournament. Craig Brown, their coach, said: "It couldn't come any tougher." He added that his side would be aiming for second in their group at best. England and Scotland are drawn in such a way that they could meet in the semi-finals. Hoddle said it would be a "dream come true for British football".

Yesterday's draw threw up some other intriguing ties. The United States are pitted against Iran in the opening stages, in a group with Germany and Yugoslavia. South Africa, making nals, will meet the hosts, France, Saudi Arabia and Denmark in the opening phase. - Nick Horris

Sport, pages 30,32

Utter confusion about **BSE** in cakes and sweets

Will gelatine be the next beefderived ingredient we worry about? Probably we shouldn't but it may be at risk as the Government wrestles with the consequences of banning beef 'on the bone', because gelatine is what you get from the bones. Our Science Editor investigates.

Gelatine, used in huge quantities of sweets, cakes, biscuits, sauces and other foods, may be implicated in the new BSE scare, it was revealed yesterday. But there was profound confusion about the issue, which takes the beef crisis into new areas for every shop-

Gelatine is a binding agent for foods and medicine made from boiled animal bones, including cattle bones - which have become the subject of a proposed Government han, when attached to cuts of meat, such as T-bone steaks. Europe produces about 97,000 tonnes of it annually, and probably consumes even more.

So has the disease spread to this most widespread and homely of substances? As with many aspects of the BSE story, no one seems entirely sure. "Infectivity has never been shown in gelatin," said a government spokesman yesterday - repeating a line which has been used for more than a decade. In contrast, Stephen Dealler, an independent expert on the disease, said: "The method used to detect infectivity - injecting it into mice - makes it far less sensitive than you'd ideally want. A lot of tissues have come out negative in the government tests. But you really don't know for sure."

The Government's certainty that meat on the bone poses a risk - however small prompted a typically British reaction from some shoppers yesterday; they began bulk-

buying. Joe Collier, owner of Eastwoods ropean Commission intends to bring in new Butchers in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. said he had sold a week's worth of ribs in one day to customers defying the planned han - which requires a Parliamentary Order. not expected until January.

"One customer rang up and placed an order for £200 of Scotch rib of beef," said Mr Collier. "He won't be able to pick it up for a week but he wanted to make sure he'd he able to get hold of it. We've sold more rib of beef today than I normally would in a whole week. Customers are saying they're very angry about what's happened."

Farmers meanwhile continued with a more Gallic reaction. Many were last night

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

converging on Dover for a blockade, continuing protests which have been building in size and spread since Sunday night. Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, pledged to do everything in his power to bring the chaos to a halt. "Farmers have no right to act outside the law. If this was a bunch of unemployed youngsters people would see it completely differently." he said. "Farmers are not above the law - that has got to be made clear to them."

Michael Jack, his predecessor in the post, s said he had met hill farmers on Wednesday who had told him beef prices at Banbury market were at a 20-year low. Hill farmers, who have an average income of only £10,500 a year, have been hit hadly by the problem.

But while the anger over meat off the hone grew, the confusion over the bones off the meat is quietly growing. The Eu-

regulations from 1 January which will compel Europe's gelatine manufacturers who produce about 97,000 tonnes annually, for revenues of about £580m - to use only "approved" bones from "BSE-free"

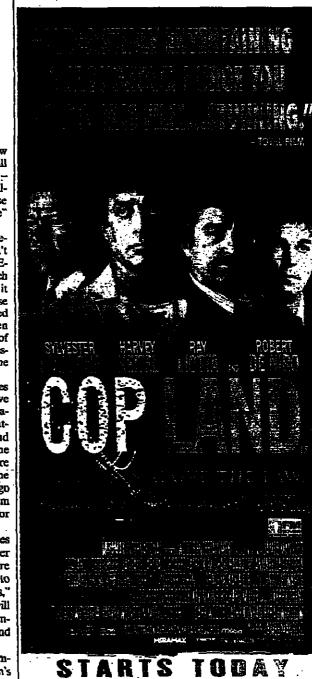
But with fewer than 20 working days before that comes into force, the EC hasn't decided what "approved" or even "BSEfree" means. In particular, Germany, which has recorded five cases of BSE, insists it should be defined as "BSE-free" because the cases were found only in imported rather than home-bred cattle. Jurgen Thomsen, secretary of the Association of Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe, said yesterday: "I have absolutely no idea what the definition will be."

There is also confusion over what bones can be used. Gelatine manufacturers have previously used the vertebrae as raw material - but as the spinal cord has repeatedly been shown to be very infectious, and with this week's announcement that bone marrow is potentially infectious, they are worried that that too will be taken off the approved list. In that case, the price will go up, and they will be forced to import from the US and Asia, which presently vie for

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was last night still puzzling over the consequences of its own ruling. "We're not sure if gelatine in food will be able to he made from bones from any countries," said a spokeswoman yesterday. "We will thrash that out with the industry, in consultation to start as soon as possible and report as soon as possible."

Farmers blockading ports were damaging their own interests as well as Britain's close relationship with Ireland, Mr Cunnineham warned last night after a meeting with his Irish counterpart, Joe Walsh.

Beef crisis, pages 12 and 13



AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

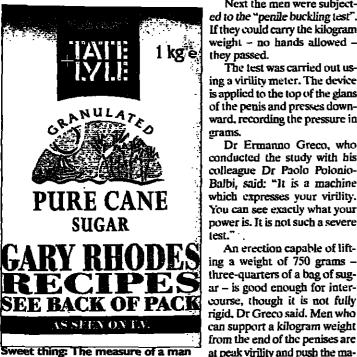
Italian men show a rare enthusiasm for sex - or at least those who agreed to test a new drug for impotence did.

They were persuaded by doctors at the Centre for Impotence and Fertility in Rome that the only valid way to test the efficacy of the treatment was by applying a kilogram weight - equivalent to a large bag of sugar to the end of their penises to assess their rigidity.

If the weight did not buckle the penis, that would be proof that the

In all, 123 men agreed to participate in the study, ranging in age from 33 to a remarkable 77. The drug, alprostadil, was inserted into the urethra (the opening of the penis) and the men were given what doctors call "visual erotic stimulation" - pictures of undressed women to you and me. First, the hardness of the penis was assessed using an electronic rigidome-

ter called a Rigicompt which measured the pressure. Once this rose above 75mm of mercury it was judged to be fully rigid. Next the men were subject-



they passed. The test was carried out using a virility meter. The device is applied to the top of the glans

ed to the "penile buckling test". If they could carry the kilogram weight - no hands allowed -

of the penis and presses downward, recording the pressure in Dr Ermanno Greco, who conducted the study with his colleague Dr Paolo Polonio-

Balbi, said: "It is a machine which expresses your virility. You can see exactly what your power is. It is not such a severe An erection capable of lifting a weight of 750 grams -

three-quarters of a bag of sugar - is good enough for interrigid, Dr Greco said. Men who can support a kilogram weight from the end of the penises are at peak virility and push the machine off the scale.

The results of the study, reported in the Lancet, showed that the drug improved the blood flow in all patients, increasing the size of the penis and more than doubling it in some. Unfortunately, not many had a real and lasting hardness," Drs. Greco and Polonio-Balbi say.

There was complete rigidity in 11 men and a full but not lasting erection in 16 that subsided in one to two minutes.

Five patients were sufficiently impressed to try the drug at home and two "got good results", the doctors say. The other 118 returned to using the injections direct into the penis that most of them had previously re-The performance of even the most successful Italian volunteers pales

beside the exploits of the sadhus of Nepal. In Chomolungma Sings The Blues, an account of travels around Mount Everest by the mountaineer Ed Douglas, he describes meeting a sadhu who offers to lift a rock with his penis - for a price. How much does the rock weigh? Over 80 kilos. "It is a hard life." says the sadhu.

- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

The Eye, 30

The Eye, 31-32

PEOPLE



Lauren Booth: 'I felt like a child that had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther'

PM's sister-in-law asks Alan Clark for a date

By now, most women might consider it a good idea to give Tory MP Alan Clark a wide berth. Perhaps the Prime Minister's sister-in-law simply hadn't read the Diaries of the "cold, steely-eyed Lothario".

In an article in The Spectator magazine, 28-yearold former model Lauren Booth recalled how she tried to date the libidinous former Cabinet minister at a recent parliamentary awards ceremony.

"My reputation as a Valkyrie-like goddess (encouraged by bored journalists with columns to fill) was at stake." she wrote. "To leave the awards not having been asked out by him would, I was assured. be seen as 'a sure sign you're a woofer'.

Determinedly, but with a "demure smile", Ms Booth approached Mr Clark and said: "It wouldn't be good form for either of us to leave here without having arranged an innocent lunch together."

"Time may indeed have crumpled those aquiline features, but as he turned his full and vaguely amused attention on me. I suddenly felt like a child that had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther," she said. "He gave me a cool, brazen appraisal: 'My dear, I was going to ask you anyway. he growled.

Ms Booth also described the arrival of Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street, as "the Versace revolution".

"To witness a historic moment can have peculiar repercussions. That moment for me was realised as I watched my charming, Marmite-sandwich-making brother-in-law change before my eves at his Sedgefield constituency count into 'our leader'."

Ms Booth said Mr Blair was "warmer than Pitt the Younger, more flamboyant than Disraeli, and more youthful than Lloyd George.

"The Czech overthrow of Soviet tyranny was called the Velvet Revolution. This was just as momentous: the Versace Revolution."

Last week Tory spin doctor Sheila Gunn admitted that she had no grounds whatsoever for suggesting that Cheric Blair did not like Humphrey the Downing Street cat. But Ms Booth suggests that feline adoration does not run in the family.

"Our paths crossed one afternoon in the Downing Street lobby. He looked a bit ragged. Moreover. he had the arrogance of a very senior civil servant - the cat wasn't called Humphrey for nothing. "Indeed, he gave me such a withering look of con-

tempt that I shall never forget him." she said, adding: Nor will I forget the unpleasant odour that followed him about.

UPDATE

HEALTH

Festive misery for alcohol bingers

More than 10,000 people a day are expected to seek help for alcohol-related problems over Christmas, it was disclosed yesterday. Around 9,300 people go for help for their own drink problem and 700 make inquiries on behalf of friends or family, according to an Alcohol Concern survey.

The director, Eric Appleby, said the charity and other alcohol-advice

agencies were bracing themselves for a Christmas and New Year rush. "This is the first time that we have been able to put an accurate figure on the numbers ... receiving help on any given day - and the figure of 10,000 is bound to go up over the Christmas period, given the amount of alcohol consumed and holiday closures." The study, the first of its kind, carried out just before Christmas last year, shows men accounted for two-thirds of self-referrals and the average age of people seeking help was 41. Nearly half the people requiring help said they were concerned about their psychological health. Physical health was the main concern of 27 per cent; relationship problems 20 per cent; and a combination of work and financial problems 7 per cent.

Mr Appleby said the figures showed the scale of alcohol abuse. "Perhaps the most important thing to note about these figures is that it's not right just to be concerned about drugs and young people - 85 per cent of the sample used no drugs other than alcohol, thereby killing the myth that people generally seek help with a cocktail of alcohol and drug problems."

CRIME

Old Vauxhalls head the theft index

Fifteen-year-old Vauxhall Cavaliers are the cars most likely cars to be stolen, according to official Home Pouce Office figures published yesterday.

More than one in every 10 1980-82 model Cavaliers on the road last year was stolen. And the 1983-85 and the 1986-88 models fared almost as badly in the Home Office's Car Theft Index. The Cavalier's monopoly of the top places in the index was only broken by the 1986-88 model Austin Morris Metro MG, which was fourth on the list.

The good news for car buvers is OOCAVALT that newer vehicles are much less likely to be stolen. Just two in every

1.000 cars registered last year was stolen, compared with 28 per thousand registered in 1985 - the peak vintage for thefts. Home Office Minister Alun Michael said the trend reflected improvements in security by manufacturers in recent years, although he warned against complacency.

TOURISM

Icelanders have hots for Scots shops

Icelanders have the hots for British shops: tourists from there spend more per day - an average of £99 - than any other overseas visitors to the UK, figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show. Much of the spending is on shopping trips to Scotland.

The figures also showed a record 42 million visits were made abroad by UK residents in 1996 - up 3 per cent on the 1995 level. Spending on these trips totalled a record £16.3bn - up 6 per cent. France was the most popular destination, followed by Spain, Ireland, the USA and Germany. A record 25 million visits were made by overseas residents to the UK last year - up 7.5 per cent on the 1995 total. More visits were made by French residents than from any other country. Although Icelanders were the top daily spenders. the highest spenders overall were Americans, followed by the Germans.

CONTENTS News Coal Features Hunting **Obituaries** World news Leader, letters 20 Russia Comment **Politics** Business 22-27 News 28-32 Sport Environment Crossword The Eye, 29

Weather

TV & Radio

Wheelchair bound MP has that golden touch

Christmas came early yesterday for Labour MP Anne Begg, who displayed her new gold-plated wheelchair outside the House of Commons. Ms Begg, 41, who became Britain's first wheelchairbound MP when she defeated former the Scottish Office minister Raymond Robertson on I May for the Aberdeen South constituency, showed that the disabled can travel in style by acquiring the new £1,475 chair.

She spotted the chair at this that wheelchairs are fast becomcomplement her best clothes on of mobility." special occasions.

vacare UK, said: "We have found bones.

year's Scope National Conference ing a style item, and that users want in Blackpool, and decided that it chairs to reflect their personality. would be the ideal accessory to as well as providing a high degree

Ms Begg, who was head of Eng-One of a limited edition of just lish at Arbroath Academy before 99 being sold across Europe, the her election to Parliament, has chair contains around £180 worth been in a wheelchair for 13 years. She suffers from Gauchers dis-

Chris Fullerton, the marketing ease - an enzyme deficiency blood manager of manufacturers In- disorder that has softened her

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7.30 FOR 8

Education

European news

by Chris Priestley ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



MY POINT 18 , DROOPY, THAT YOU'RE SO FULL OF YOURSELVES AND YOU GAN'T EVEN SAY

THE WORD HERS ... OR SHOULD DE DO YOU KNOW How

WHY DROP THE 'H'? WHY? ARE YOU TRYING TO SOUND FRENCH? COS YOU DON'T! YOU JUST SOUND CRAZY ! URBS! WHATIS IT WITH YOU AND HERBS ... O-REG-AND INSTEAD OF ORE-GAN-Q AND THERES NO SUCH THING AS BAYSIL DETHER! IT

RATHBONE

AND IT WASN'T BAY SIL FAWLTY ... WHICH REMINDS ME - WHAT IS THAT MONTY PIE-THOM NONSENSE? WHY? WHY? IT'S PYTHON! PYTHON! NOT PIE-THON ... WASN'T BAYSIL











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Hed offered mi mmittee, says

Reconcilia

3/LEADING STORIES

Reconciliation, maybe. But not the truth

Never had truth and reconciliation in South Africa seemed so irreconcilable. Mary Braid watched a sickening spectacle unfold yesterday at the end of the hearings into Winnie Mandela's alleged involvement in an array of murders and assaults.

The nine-day hearing was stuffed with grotesque moments, but yesterday's were the worst. Taking the stand after eight days of damning testimony against her, Winnie Mandela held up well at first. Her strategy was blanket denial, shifting all the blame to the media and her political opponents.

Now she seemed flustered as she struggled to maintain her alibi for the day the 14-year-old activist Stompei Selpei Moeketsi, who later died, was severely assaulted in her home.

It was one of the few real challenges to a woman with many questions to answer from many families. But Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with exposing the horrors of the apartheid era, kept pressing the lawyer challenging Mrs Mandela, to wind up.

Suddenly a premature finale materialised, as if from nowhere. While the cross-examination by lawyers acting for Mrs Mandela's alleged victims was still under way, the archbishop invited all those who claimed to have suffered at the hands of Mrs Mandela and her vigilantes, the Mandela United Football Club, to come forward.

Suddenly Joyce Sepei, Stompie's mother, was embracing Mrs Mandela, the woman already convicted of taking part in the kidnap of her son, and who this week was also accused by several witnesses of brutally assaulting him before his death.

The cameras clicked as the archbishop gave a sermon about the healing of a nation. It was as if the commission had realised Mrs Mandela would not bend. It offered sham reconciliation in the absence of truth or even a glimmer of contrition.

the way some families, anticipating events. described the hearings half an hour earli- do with him. That was the last time Lolo er, when they stormed out the hall. "She's the woman who murdered our children," screamed Caroline Sono outside the hearing. She remembers Mrs Mandela calling her son "a dog" just before his disappearance in 1988. Mrs Sono said the TRC hearing had amounted to nothing. "Nothing has

been done. There's no justice in this land." Mrs Mandela was implicated in the disappearance of Lolo this week. Mrs Sono's husband. Nicodemus, testified that Mrs Mandela and members of the football club had brought Sono's battered body to his



Joyce Seipei (left), the mother of the murdered teenage activist Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, is embraced by Winnie Mandela at the Truth and Reconciliation Photograph: Adil Bradlow/AP Commission hearing in Johannesburg yesterday

Not everyone was fooled. A farce was but Mrs Mandela had said he had sold out and the movement would decide what to was seen alive.

On Wednesday Jerry Richardson, former coach of the football team, now serving life for Stompie's murder, said he had killed Lolo and his friend Siboniso Tshabalala on Mrs Mandela's orders.

Yesterday Mrs Mandela denied ordering anyone's death. Every charge was "ludicrous", or "lunacy". And just as witnesses mysteriously disappeared before the trial for Stompie's kidnapping, assault and murder, so witnesses failed to show this week.

Michael Seakamela had been expected home in the back of a van in November to tell the commission that he had driven Richardson, her mentally disturbed former

home. The TRC warned Mrs Mandela about intimidating witnesses. But all that was forgotten yesterday when Mrs Mandela finally finished being cross-examined. A tearful Archbishop Tutu begged Mrs Mandela just to admit that things had gone wrong and say sorry. She did not have to specify what those "things" were. She duly

What followed was a bizarre mixture of pantomine and pure Hollywood. There were flowers for the diva as she was welcomed back with emotion into the fold. Mrs Mandela embraced everyone

If proof were needed that South Africa had gone mad it was the sight of Jerry

1988. He claimed he begged for Lolo's life Mrs Mandela and the injured Lolo to Lolo's heachman, handing out greetings cards to fession that South Africa is supposed to heal everyone he could find. And all this for a woman who was for eight days portrayed as a violent despot who orchestrated a reign of terror in Soweto through the football club thugs she housed at the back of her home. All this for the woman who denied every accusation levelled against her and rubbished almost every witness.

At the beginning of these hearings, Mrs Mandela was urged by Peter Storey, a bishop in South Africa's Methodist Church, to is through these quasi-religious acts of con- Cachalia.

itself and go forward. But yesterday was simply a final show of defiance by Mrs Mandela who had refused to seek amnesty from the Commission in spite of the advice of the African National Congress.

Either Mrs Mandela lied to her back teeth or she is the victim of an elaborate political conspiracy. In two weeks Mrs Mandela will contest the deputy leadership of the ANC, a post that would put her within striking distance of the presidency. That unburden herself of the sins of the past. It must chill the heart of men like Mr

IN TOMORROW'S **FIVE-SECTION** INDEPENDENT

Scuba diving in Thailand, 48 hours in Havana TIME OFF



Make it a merry plastic **Christmas** YOUR MONEY

The Old Vic: **Goodbye to** all that **ARTS**



Fever pitch with the **Medieval Babes THE MAGAZINE**

MURDERS IN WHICH WINNIE WAS IMPLICATED

hearings implicated Mrs Mandela were: 1 The assault and murder of Stompie Seipei Mocketsi, 14, at the end of 1988. Gerry Richardson, former "coach" of the notorious Mandela United Football Club, claims he carried out the murder on Mrs Mandela's orders after the boy was beaten by her and the foothall team until he was almost dead. Stompie. it is claimed, was thought to be a police spy. 2 The murder of Dr Abu Baker Asvat in his

Mrs Mandela to kill him. Its claimed the doctor had been asked to examine a badly beaten Stompie by Mrs Mandela and that he was assassinated because he knew too much about the boy's death

3 The murder of Kuki Zwame in December 1988, Richardson claims he killed Ms Zwame on Mrs Mandela's orders after Mrs Mandela branded her a spy.

4 and 5 Lolo Sono and Siboniso-Tshabalala, surgery in January 1989. Two men, serving life who disappeared in November 1988 after al-

legedly being questioned and assaulted at Mrs Mandela's house. Richardson claims he killed them on Mrs Mandela's instructions because she suspected they were informers. 6 The death of Finkie Msomi, 13, shot during an attack on a Soweto home earlier in the club on Mrs Mandela's orders in revenge for the murder of a football club member.

Mrs Mandela was also asked about at least five other murders during the hearing and an array of violent assaults

Fayed offered me £10m to lie to MPs' committee, says Tiny Rowland

Tiny Rowland claims Mohamed Al Fayed offered him £10m to lie to a Parliamentary committee. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, recounts the latest twist in the long-running feud between the two men.

Even by the standards of the long-running war between Mr Rowland and Mr Fayed, the allegations are startling. In High Court writs Mr Rowland claims that the Harrods boss offered him a £10m bribe to lie to the Select Committee on Standards

and Privileges. The former head of Lonrho also alleges that the Harrock owner was prepared to hand him ownership of exclusive shirtmakers Turnbull & Asser, and tried to ments about him if Mr Rowland gave the false evidence.

alleging that the former cabinet accepted a payment of £1m or Neil Hamilton, in October, £1.5m to start a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into with the High Court, it is said the Egyptian businessman's that the box was opened to takeover of Harrods. The search for material which could claims were firmly dismissed by - be used to put pressure on Mr the committee in March.



Tiny Rowland (left) and Mohamed Al Fayed make up in 1993 after ending their row over the ownership of Harrods store

egorically" denied yesterday by Mr Fayed, come just after he withdrew a libel action over a together with jewels and other Vanity Fair magazine article which accused him of racial and sexual harassment.

The new claims are conblackmail him by promising to re- tained in a civil action brought contents of the box and phototurn reportedly damaging docu- by Mr Rowland claiming that Mr Fayed and five other people broke into his safety deposit At the time, Mr Faved was box at the Knightsbridge store in December 1995, allegations minister Michael Howard had first made by the former MP.

In a series of writs lodged

The bribery allegations, "cat-legation against Mr Howard. The box apparently contained documents and audio tapes, valuables.

> The writ against Mr Fayed alleges that while he was present two of his staff went through the copied some of the documents.

More documents were copied, and the tapes removed of the envelope, together with for copying, after the box was ownership of Tumbull & Asser again broken into the following evening. The tapes were re- if he gave evidence to the aforeplaced after a third break-in. said select committee". Some of the valuables were "stolen", it is alleged.

Fayed, his assistant Mark Grif- and an injunction to prevent fiths, his director of security unauthorised copying of the Rowland to back Mr Fayed's al- John Macnamara, his body-

guard Paul Handley-Greaves, senior security manager John Allen, and the safe deposits

manager, Colin Dalman. Mr Rowland alleges that they conspired together, and with Nancy Bush and Robert Lostus, wrongfully to interfere with his goods by committing trespass and/or wrongful conversion: to induce a breach of the hire contract relating to the box and to infringe his copyright in letters and recordings.

Mr Rowland claims that before the break-in a series of letters from Mr Al Fayed and his staff had - vainly - tried to persuade him to give false evidence.

The attempts to buy the retired tycoon's evidence came later, according to the writs, In one it is stated that during

a lunch at Harrods in about March 1996, "the defendant claimed he had information and/or documents damaging to the plaintiff, showed him a brown envelope which he claimed contained such material, and told him he could have the contents ... and a cash payment of £10m

Mr Rowland is seeking damages, the return of any proper-The writs are against Mr ty in the defendants' possession.

SIEMENS

A cardigan, how lovely, no really, it's just what wanted and paisley as well, how...unique. This Christmas, get to Santa before he gets to you. Ask for the new Siemens \$10, which has just been voted the Best Business Michile in the World by Connect magazine and which comes with 10 hours. takkine, the world's first colour display and a verse mann function. Better

The ambitious campaign by the European Commission to ban tobacco advertising has taken a knock from Britain, and now Spain. Katherine Butler reports from Brussels.

Britain was offered eight years to wean Formula One and other sporting or arts events off tobacco sponsorship last night to secure the Government's backing for a controversial EU ban on eigarette advertising.

Under pressure from European health ministers the four-year exemption could be Commission, which has been seeking a blanket ban on all forms of tobacco advertising and level". sponsorship for the past 10 years, appeared ready to bow to a series of other national demands to muster a majority in favour of the measure.

A surprise move by Spain, which switched camps to reverse its support for a ban early yesterday, plunged supporters into despondency as backing for a compromise formula had been finely balanced, with four member-states. Germany, Austria Greece and Denmark, ranged against it.

A second compromise offering Britain an eight-year strongly urged governments to phase-in for a sponsorship ban on events "organised at world level" and giving Greece the right to display tohacco ads at street-corner kiosks, looked enough to clinch a deal, even without Spain's approval.

But the threat of a total ban on indirect advertising, sponsorship and promotional gifts fell away as the Commission eased proposals which would have banned the marketing of clothing and luxury goods by tobacco manufacturers.

about legal obstacles related to trademark law, it revised the encing the proceedings".

threat, to allow existing products such as Camel boots or Marlboro T-shirts to continue to be sold subject to certain constraints. Under the deal expected to be agreed late last night, assuming Britain accepted the eight-year time-frame for Formula One sponsorship. EU governments, all of which already ban tobacco advertising on television. would ban publicity in the written press and on billboards.

They would have two years to implement the measure. Sponsorship deals could continue for all sports for a further two years and a further

allowed for sporting or cultur-

al events "organised at world

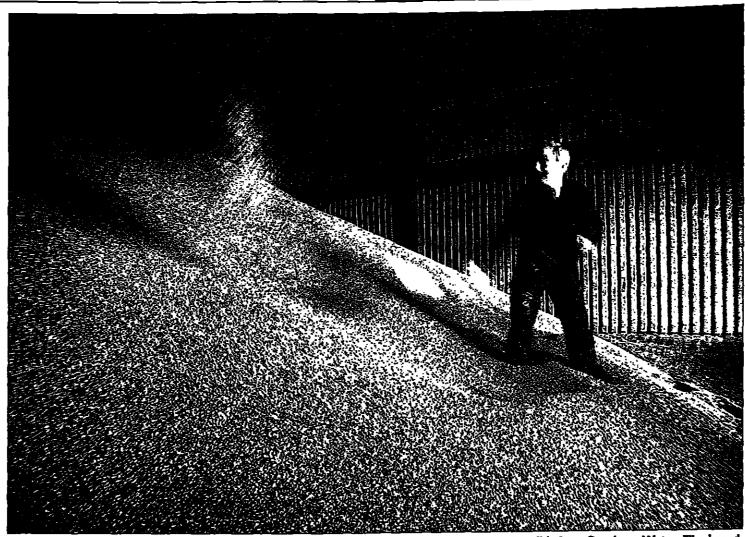
Organisers would be required to demonstrate that they were replacing tobacco money with alternative sponsors during that time and to reduce the visibility of cigarette brand em-

blems and logos at events. Cigarette advertising in specialist tobacco industry magazines and in publications imported from outside the EU, for example copies of Time or Newsweek published in the US, could also continue.

Padraig Flyan the EU commissioner for health policy. accept the compromise warning, that it would be many years before a new attempt to restrict advertising could be launched if it failed.

There was criticism however from governments which said the watered-down version of the proposals inflicted serious damage on effectiveness of a ban. Brian Cowen, the Irish health minister, said: "I am disappointed at efforts to water this down.

Quite clearly, vested interests Faced with a hail of protests in the tobacco industry and in sport are very strongly influ-



A 40ft pile of beans grown in Rusper, West Sussex, using fertiliser from recycled waste organic solids from Southern Water. The broad beans, which will be used for cattle feed, are the first crop grown at the experimental farm

Photograph: Philip Meech

Double 'sting' costs Foreign Office £442,000

INNOVATING

The Foreign Office has lost £442,000 as a result of a double 'sting' at the British embassy in Amman. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on two accountants and a modern Aladdin's Cave.

Last year, MPs were told by Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, that a locally engaged accountant in the British Embassy in Jordan had "forged life certificates and encashed payable orders for over 20 years in respect of pensioners who had previously died."

The accountant, Zureik, for whom no other name is provided, is believed to have got away with £330,000, and

the National Audit Office made a number of recommendations to tighten up procedures in Amman, described as "a particularly vulnerable post".

Because of the Zureik "sting". when a new senior management officer arrived in Amman last June, he was very much on his toes, and he noticed that the occupants of some of the embassy's residential properties "appeared to be consuming significantly more fuel than others".

On being asked to investigate, his assistant "found that a number of oil deliveries were for identical amounts". and she discovered "that duplicate payments had been made as a result of the presentation of different copies of the same invoices."

was Mr Shehadeh, for whom no oth- electricity, as well as stationery and fate is not known.

er name is provided, and it appears that between 1993 and last June he was in the habit of submitting two copies of the same diesel fuel delivery invoice for signed authorisation by the em-

bassy's senior management officer. The top, pink copy, was quite properly used to support cheque payment to the supplier - but, then. Mr Shehadeh would use the duplicate, green delivery note to support a cash payment into an account which he con-

"To forestall detection," Sir John explained, "the two payments were so arranged that they appeared on the embassy's accounts in different peri-

Mr Shehadeh also submitted falsi-The man who replaced Mr Zureik fied invoices for utility supplies, like

COMPUTING

postage, using a variety of techniques to get the senior management officer's authorisation for payment.

Because records have been destroyed for the seven years to 1993. when Mr Shehadeh was working as an accountant in the embassy, the precise

loss is not known. Mr Shehadeh, who denies all the accusations made against him vesterday's report attracts parliamentary privilege for purposes of defamation - is currently being held on remand pending criminal and civil tri-

As for the senior management officer who signed the authorisations, he left Amman in April and has had unspecified "disciplinary action taken against him". He is not named, and his

Angler nets four fish a minute for five hours

Angler Jimmy Powell proved that little fish are sweet when he caught 1,100 in just five hours to win a contest on the flooded River Wye in Hereford and

The 40-year-old factory stores manager landed almost four fish every minute in the tournament last Sunday. More than half the 200 anglers who had been expected to compete in the event failed to turn up because the swollen river was running so high that they despaired of catching anything.
But Mr Powell had no complaints

as his keep net began to bulge with bleak - a tiny silver coloured flat fish the size of whitebait. A shoal of the fish were sheltering from the strong current behind a fallen tree trunk which was wedged against the bank at the spot where Mr Powell had been drawn to fish in the contest.

"I've never caught so many fish in my life," said the former Welsh international. "My arms and shoulder blades are still aching now - Ive run half marathons and not felt that shattered.

"The river was chocolate brown and the current was so strong some tree trunks floated past me at about 30 miles an hour. All the fish were looking for a sheltered spot and they were not expecting to be caught. Most of the time I was catching eight or ten fish with each maggot. They were chewing on the bait and I just shook them off my barbless book into the net."

Mr Powell's incredible haul only weighed 25lb 31/20z but was sufficient to win the £200 first prize in the Hereford and District Angling Association's Wye Charity Match. The chairman of the association, Ray Bryan, said: "It was an incredible achievement. Most people took one look at the river and thought that there was no way they were going to catch fish."

Even so, Mr Powell, of Victoria Park, Hereford, believes that his baul is not a record breaker. An angler called Steve Thomas - nicknamed "the bionic bleaker" - is reputed to have caught 1,800 bleak in another fivehour contest on the Wve.

All the fish in the latest tournament were put back in the river alive.

- Richard Smith



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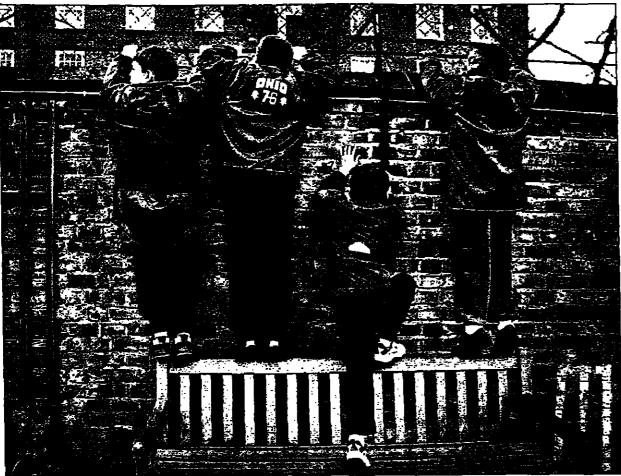
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5/EDUCATION



I spy: Winton primary school pupils trying to catch a glimpse of Prince Charles yesterday Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

A business-like approach that gets results

Prince Charles ventured into ton, where pupils come from a lessons at Winton primary mix of cultures and between as Crimson Class were singing the alphabet.

covered, was 'S', which stood for salami, sandwich and snake. "If you eat snake you will die," offered Scott Shields, aged four.

"I've eaten a snake and I didn't die," said Charles, forgetting classroom protocol for a

moment, "It tasted like chicken." Snake controversy aside, the thused by the reading lesson. and borrowed a knee-high chair to talk more closely to the fourand five-year-olds.

The prince was visiting Win-tional standards.

jor firms such as NatWest and Walkers are helping schools

His Business in the Community charity takes business leaders to visit the school as part of its "Seeing is Believing" tours aimed at encouraging firms to loan their employees' skills.

Winton, in an area of Islington best known for prostitution and drug problems yet only a brisk walk from the would meet with firm approval from a government intent on calling in help from the business world to help drive up educaThe school has already re-The Schools Standards and ing school standards.

Education Correspondent

Framework Bill, published yesterday, will provide for a greater formal role for business in rais-

— Lucy Ward,

Classroom revolution offers new hope for worst schools

BY JUDITH JUDD

£500,000 a year, will not go far ing on quicker procedures for

Action zones, to be set up for under-achieving schools in disadvantaged areas, are to be testbeds for experiments in raising school standards. Our Education Editor analyses yesterday's Education Bill.

Education priority areas tried to entice teachers into poor areas by paying them more. The remit of education action zones, outlined in the Education Bill yesterday, will be much wider. Run by a mixture of local authorities, community groups and business, they will be free to fix the pay and conditions of teachers working within them, regardless of national pay scales, and they will be able to ignore the national curriculum.

That means that they will be able to concentrate on the basics of literacy and numeracy and remedy the failure of successive governments to raise standards among the most disadvantaged children.

They will also be able to redesign the curriculum to make requires different skills from it more attractive to less-able pupils and more relevant to the will also be able to take over world of work than the national some functions of failing local curriculum based on academic education authorities. "Virgins ble or disorganised to improve

subjects that have been largely cau't run railways and they cerunchanged since Victorian times. tainly won't be able to run ed-If action-zone experiments ucation services," said Graham are successful, they will be tried Lane, chair of the Local Govin schools across the country.

But it will not all be plain sailing. There are hints of different contracts for different erament's determination to years to sack a bad teacher. teachers so that, as in many othand longer may receive more. in other ways it is unashamed-Expect angry protests from teacher unions.

The extra money expected to

business and the Government,

once a chief executive or su-

perhead has been paid, say

£100,000, to run the 20 or so

schools in a zone and each

school has been given at least

educational consultants to play

a role in running the zones may

be successful. Equally, they

may find that running schools

running a company. Companies

Plans for private firms and

one superteacher.

ernment Association's education committee.

The Bill reflects the Govroot out educational failure. er jobs, the most talented and While the education action those prepared to work harder zones will have new freedoms, ly centralising. The Secretary of State for Education is gaining powers to take over failing

cation authorities. He is insist-

Yesterday, David Blunkett

was unapologetic. In the past, he

said, "central government car-

ried responsibility without pow-

er. It deluded the electorate into

believing that central govern-

ment could deliver change with-

it. We are taking the necessary

powers to ensure that people on

local authorities were too fee-

After years in which had

the ground do their job."

sacking teachers.

with the new power over local authorities. The insistence that teachers are sacked more quickly is equally necessary: recent research from Exeter University showed that it can take up to 12

The Bill marks an overdue return to the notion that schools need to be planned and an end to the last government's ideological conviction that the market would raise standards.

Because so much of what is proposed makes sense, the response of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats was muted. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrais' spokesman, pointed out that more money will almost be available to the zones from schools and failing local educertainly be needed.

William Hague, the Tory leader, who worried that the measures gave local authorities more power over grant-maintained schools, created by the last government, must know that the agenda has moved on. His party dropped its promise of a grammar school in every town after its own focus groups out the mechanisms to deliver and canvassers discovered that voters were not interested. Instead, they wanted to talk about class sizes. Under the Bill, local authorities will have to draw schools have drifted on because up plans showing how they will provide smaller classes for five-

school, tucked behind Lon- them speak 26 languages, to disdon's Kings Cross station, just cover how employees from ma-Letter of the week, he dis- boost literacy standards by hearing children read.

"That's right," said his teacher.

Prince of Wales was clearly en- Prime Minister's former home,

•

Ę

ceived glowing reports from inspectors despite coping with a frequently fluctuating pupil population as families move into and out of the area.

> The school standards authority, Ofsted noted that in maths and English pupils made "remarkable and substantial improvements from a position well below the national average to attainment which is now firmly in line with national averages".

The school won a Business in the Community "Aim High" award for raising reading ages through its reading programme run with NatWest staff, and head teacher Jane Fulford has a mentor from management consultants KPMG who shares expertise on staffing, planning and office management.

Dixons for New Technology



MAIN POINTS OF THE BILL

 Class sizes for five- to seven-year-olds to be Fept to 30 or below Local education authorities to draw up plans for smaller classes, and admissions rules to be changed to stop schools admit-

ting more than the limit.

• Education action comes to raise standards in areas where schools are struggling. Local authorities, businesses and others to apply to run the zones, with freedom to suspend the national curinculum and set their own rates of teachers' pay. dards, starting with a three-year 'education development plan' to be approved by the Secretary of State. Government to be able to intervene in failing authorities by removing control of education

 Secretary of State to have powers to take control of persistently failing schools, with ultimate sanction of dosure and reopening with new staff and site.

 Three new categories of school – community. foundation and voluntary - to be created. LEA committees to have parent members.

 All local authorities to have development plans for under-fives education.

Schools must have written home-school

 Independent adjudicator to sort out disputes r admissions arrangements Local parents allowed ballot on future of indi-

vidual grammar schools or (in wholly selective areas) whether selective system should continue.

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Woman admits to affair with boy of 14

The affair between a 33-year-old mother and a schoolboy caused outrage and sparked a manhunt on both sides of the Atlantic. Kate Watson-Smyth reports on Tracey Whalin's day in court on charges of abduction and gross indecency.

children, conducted a clandestine affair with the boy - who was then 13 - for a year before they ran away to the United States to start a new life a Florida hotel by the Federal Bu- had suffered no long-term harm. reau of Investigation after a 10-day search and Mrs Whalin was taken to jail in shackles before being allowed to return to England to face charges six weeks later.

In Nottingham Crown Court yes-

terday she admitted gross indecen- said the relationship had progressed to two charges of indecent assault and abducting a child. The judge, Mr Justice Potts, put her on probation for two years on each count, to run concurrently, telling her that he was treating the case as exceptional.

"I fully recognise and give weight to the fact that at all times the boy was a willing and active participant in what went on," he said. "I also proceed on the basis that at all times you Mrs Whalin, married with three and he, to put it at its lowest, were extremely fond of each other. But even these matters cannot excuse the seriousness of what you did." He said that although no one would ever be together, a court heard yesterday. certain, it appeared that the boy, who They were finally tracked down to cannot be named for legal reasons,

> Earlier Gregory Dickinson, prosecuting, told the court that the couple's sexual relationship began when the boy became infatuated with the

cy with the boy and pleaded guilty rapidly from kissing to full sexual intercourse and continued for more than a year, with the youngster as a "willing and enthusiastic partner".

The couple then planned to go to the US and "remain there indefinitely" he added. They flew to Florida on 15 July this year and spent several days travelling around before renting an apartment in the Florida Keys. They were found after the FBI traced a call the boy made to his mother in England.

James Chadwin QC. defending, said Mrs Whalin was the victim of an unhappy marriage. He said she had had a terrible time after being detained in the US: "She was in shackles in prison. She felt unable to eat she was so miserable and afraid

... There's little doubt she suffered already at that stage substantial punishment." He added that a number of her friends and members of woman and confessed to sexual feel- the public had testified to her "exings which she then reciprocated. He cellent" ability as a mother.



Fugitive returned: Tracey Whalin, 33, arriving back in Britain last July

Photograph: Tim Ockenden

Super-resistant

bugs on increase

Greenwich ranks 17th in world

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Maritime Greenwich yesterday became the UK's 17th World Heritage Site, ranking it alongside the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China and Stonehenge. The decision, announced at a Unesco meeting in Naples, is a recognition of the unique qualities of an area by the Thames in south London that includes Sir Christopher Wren's Royal Naval Hospital, Inigo Jones's Queen's House, the Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park with the Old Royal Observatory.

Welcoming the accolade, Culture Secretary Chris Smith said the protection accorded such sites helped to "define what the word 'civilisation' means".

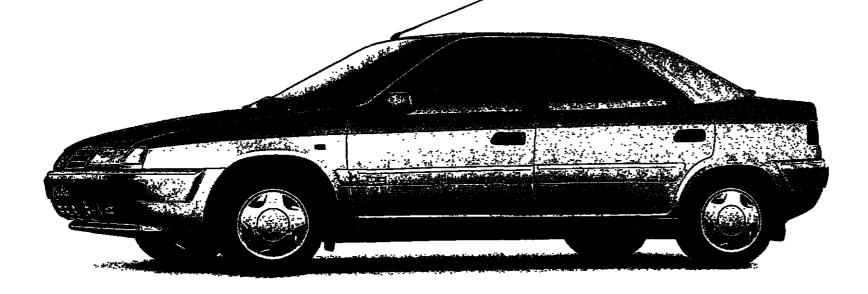
The listing brings no extra money but could assist conservationists in their fight to preserve a row of 18th century shops in the area which are threatened by a proposed retail complex.

 Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

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superbugs resistant to all known antibiotics has been found by scientists who have identified trains of a common bacterium that is able to evade the last line

of defence against infection. The bacterium, Staphylococcus aureus, can cause fatal disease and strains resistant to the antibiotic methicillin have been known since the 1970s. This left only vancomycin as the last antibiotic to which the organism was susceptible.

Earlier this year a vancomycin-resistant strain of S aureus was found in Japan which meant some infections with the organism might be untreatable. However, it was not clear how common such strains might be.

Now the researchers from untendo University, Tokyo, report a study of more than 1,000 strains of methicillin-resistant isolated from patients in 203

New evidence of the growth of hospitals in Japan. Writing in the Lancet, they say they found no new strains that were completely resistant to vancomycin but they did find strains with variable resistance, where a proportion of the organisms within the strain were not susceptible to the antibiotic.

In their own Juntendo University hospital, vancomycin resistance was found in 20 per cent of the bacterial strains. They concluded: "There is a need for special precautions to limit the spread of [resistant] strains in Japan (and the world)."

In a commentary, Dr Soad Tabaqchali of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, says affected patients should be isolated to prevent spread, and overprescribing of antibiotics must be halted to prevent the further growth of resistance.

 jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

Nazi gold talks inspire search for looted works of art

The London talks on Nazi gold, tance were made at the conhosted by Robin Cook, Foreign ference: Austria and Germany Secretary, ended yesterday with said they would seek missing a pledge for a follow-up meet- Reichsbank records, and Deing. Stuart Eizenstat, US Undergussa, the German company Secretary of State, announced plans to examine the question the Nazis, has agreed to allow of Nazi-looted art at a gathering in Washington next year.

But, he told 240 delegates from more than 40 countries. surviving victims of Nazism: We must not enter a new milleanium, when the issues of toupdating archive material.

Several promises of assis-

which smelted stolen goods for World Jewish Congress officials to have access to its files.

More countries said they would contribute to the fund for time was of the essence for the Nazi victims launched by Mr Cook, who proposed that all 15 nations due to receive the last remaining gold recaptured from day will begin to be ancient the Nazis under final World War history, without completing the Two settlements should donate work before us." A website is to it to help Holocaust victims, and be established for posting and that other countries might wish



enwich ranks 7 in world

ine Greenwich vestents to the UK's 17th Work ie ine Charles in work ige Site, ranking it along the Taj Mahal, the Gra of China and Stonehoused at the control of China and Stonehoused at the control of the control o w meeting in Naples , attion of the anique des f an area by the Thame th London that include attriopher Mich. Bus Hospital, Inigo Jone 28 House, the Comba received Park with the chal Observentil ening the accolade (a exterior, Chris Smith

folication accorded ag elped to "define whell civilisation means aing brings per paramile could apply content s in their right to proceed of 18th century shops ea which are threating reposed retail comple - Stephen Goodle Hentage Corresponde

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als in Japan, Writing ma fother say they house atams the surrect Cresistant to anome sey did find strain up the transfer of and rtion of the ergang. The strain was new le to the art long. their own lattracely threpital at mos-WARNING STATE bacters 🚎 📆 Medi Tital Carpenter iproduct to their 101 (to a 20) Proper த் மன்னமார் நடித்து இது tit street dans phase : . w. had to ... t...

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Were The - Park Et Abstractshank ... the Germana = Simultage store is a series Jewish Conference animal design विद्यालया स्थापना है। who proceed that is g due b भाष्ट्र हर्षाय १५०० व an und the Wilks atlements of a 12 to #Hales ther artificial election

Opera House chief defiant as entire

board agrees to go

The chairman and board of the Royal Opera House resigned yesterday following a damning Commons report. But the chief executive told David Lister, Arts News Editor, that she will be staying put.

Mary Allen refused last night to bow to the Commons committee's call that she should quit, as she saw her chairman. Lard Chadlington, and the entire board hand in their resignations.

Lord Chadlington, brother of the former Tory Cabinet minister John Gummer, said he was resigning as a matter of honour. The other directors tendered their resignations. but have been asked by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Chris Smith, to stay on while he reconstitutes the board.

Mr Smith is likely to ask key board members such as fund-raiser Vivien Duffield and Labour benefactor and publisher Bob Gavron to stay on. Mr Gavron may yet end up as the new chairman of the ROH.

Mrs Allen disclosed last night that she did offer to resign. But, she said, her offer was "emphatically and unanimously rejected by the board." She added that Mr Smith had told her at an afternoon meeting that it would be "disastrously destabilising" if she went, and that Covent Garden music director Bernard Haitink had also implored her to stay.

"It has been an appullingly upsetting few days," she said last night, "but I am staying. I offered my resignation because I thought it the proper thing to do, but it was rejected. The board is the only body empowered to require my resignation. I reject the criticisms of the select committee utterly and there is evidence that exonerates me total-

Earlier this week, the Culture Select Committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman MP. accused the ROH of incompetent management and called on the chairman, chief executive and board to resign. Yesterday Mr Kaufman hinted he was still not satisfied with two out of the three demands accomplished. He said: "Lord Chadlington has done the right thing. I take no pleasure in the fact that he has felt it appropriate to resign but I am sure that he has acted appropriately in do-

"The committee recommended that the remainder of the board and the chief executive should also resign, and we therefore await developments with interest."

Lord Chadlington told the board that he was resigning at an emergency meeting held at 8.30am yesterday. He had told friends just before the meeting that he was going "to do a Carrington,

This referred to Lord Carrington's decision to resign as Foreign Secretary from Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government over the Falklands War in 1982.

Lord Chadlington said yesterday: "When a public document criticises the management of a public body. I believe that it is right that the chairman resigns as a matter of honour. We must, in public life, show a lead, and that is what I am doing."

It is also believed that the board recognised that some sort of sacrifice must be made, and it is understood that no concerted attempt was made to stop Lord Chadlington going, the deputy chairman, Sir James Spooner, will be the acting chairman. The board gave Mary Allen "unanimous support" at its meeting vesterday.

Responding to yesterday's announcement, Mr Smith said: "The Royal Opera House board have come to this decision themselves; as an independent body. The absolute imperative ... is to maintain confidence in the Royal Opera House companies and in the redevelopment scheme. It is therefore welcome that the board has agreed to continue, to ensure stability, until a newly constituted board is in place.

"I join the Board of the Royal Opera House in paying tribute to the work of Lord Chadlington. He has sought to bring changes to the structure of the ROH. The new board will be able to build on this foundation."

The Culture Select Committee's report was withering in its condemnation of almost every person involved in the Royal Opera House crisis

It demanded the Royal Opera House board dissolve itself and that Mary Allen resign, handing over control of the Opera House during its current £216m renovation to an administrator appointed by Mr Smith.

"We would prefer to see the House run by a philistine with the requisite financial acumen than by the succession of opera and hallet lovers who have brought a great and valuable institution to its knees," it said.



House of pain: Karita Mattila in Elektra, one of the last performances at the ROH before the venue's closure for a £78m renovation and improvement programme Photograph: Ben Christopher/Performing Arts Library

Eyre chosen for history of theatre

Sir Richard Eyre is to present a six-part history of the British theatre for the BBC in a move that continues the trend away from "young blondes" presenting arts programmes.

Sir Richard, former artistic director of the National Theatre, follows in the footsteps of Neil MacGregor, the director of the National Gallery who recently presented the Making Masterpieces series on painting for the BBC.

The use of art world professionals rather than photogenic television presenters reflects a commitment to "serious TV" made by BBC2 controller Mark Thompson in a speech to the television industry last week.

The Sir Richard Evre series, Changing Stages, will be based on his personal view of the trends, major events and senior figures in the British theatre during this century. The programme will be made next year and will be broadcast in 1999. The producer. Andrea Miller, plans to make extensive use of film and sound archives to bring to life stage plays from throughout the century.

Sir Richard plans to look at how social and political trends of different eras were reflected in the theatre, from the Edwardian heyday of George Bernard Shaw and Lilian Bayliss, through the kitchen-sink druma period of John Osborne, to the present.

Mr Thompson is known to believe that a new approach is needed to arts programmes in the Nineties to move the genre on from shows like The Late Show.

He believes programmes like those, which were based on a structuralist approach to art, had a limited shelf life because "once you deconstruct something, it stays deconstructed", he said. Structuralist arts programmes presented by bright young things were, he believes, a one-trick game which too often sneered at art. Now he is looking for presenters with enthusiasm for their subjects.

Further proof of Mr Thompson's desire for heavyweight programmes regardless of their ratings potential is the commission of a series on existentialist intellectuals. The documentary strand, Human All Too Human, will cover Neitzsche. Heidegger and

More accessible is Watching the Detectives, a series of tributes to great crime writers and their fictional creations. It is to be presented by Nigel Williams and will feature programmes presented in the style of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Philip Marlowe and Inspector Maigret.

— Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

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Media gag on prisoners

The Court of Appeal yesterday backed the attempt by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to gag convicted prisoners from talking to the media. A test case means that while prisoners will still be able to write to journalists, they will be barred from face-to-face meetings except at the discretion of the authorities.

The decision is a major blow for those working on miscarriage of justice cases and undermines claims by ministers that they support more open government. Journalist Robert Woffinden, author of Miscarriages of Justice, who interviewed one of the prisoners involved in the test case, said: "I believe it is a very unfair restriction on prisoners and an absurd restriction on journalists."

A spokesman for the Prison Service said they were "very pleased" with the ruling, which returned the legal situation to its previous position.

In yesterday's case three appeal judges overturned the decision that the restrictions on convicted prisoners interfered with their freedom of expression under the European Convention on Human Rights. Lord Justice Kennedy said: "The loss of that 'right' ... is part and parcel of a sentence of imprisonment. He mal results from the Mars can no longer go where he wishes. He is confined."

— Michael Streeter



Stage craft: Six-year-olds from the Claire Severs Dance Academy in Hampstead, north London, rehearsing in a church hall for their Christmas performance of Mary Poppins, to be held at Parliament Hill Girls' School this Sunday Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Pathfinder shows Mars was rich in water

Mars probably had abundant water in its long-distant past, according to American scientists who today present the first for-Pathfinder mission. The planet is also more Earth-like than had been thought, with a crust made

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ials, and geologically active areas.

the Pathfinder lander, which arrived on the planet on 4 July, have now run down, they managed to transmit back huge amounts of data about the atmosphere and the rocks around the landing site. There, the

Although the batteries on cobbles implied it was once a larger sedimentary rocks called 'water-rich" environment. Writing today in the journal

Science, a team led by Matthew Golombek, of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, noted that some of these pebbles. Nasa scientists who have main-

scattered, rounded pebbles and could have been liberated by tained that a Mars meteorite conglomerates. This suggested that water existed elsewhere and earlier than in the flood believed to have carved out the valley where Pathfinder landed.

The finding is helpful for

shows evidence of past microbial life - a claim that has not been backed by other independent scientists. If Mars once had plentiful water, it could have provided the basis for life.

- Charles Arthur Science Editor

Virgin must pay up for fares blunder

Virgin Trains tried raising the price of some of its cheap 'walk-on' fares by six times the rate of inflation earlier this year. Randeep Ramesh, Transport

Correspondent, explains why the price hike has meant Richard Branson will have to hand back £24,000 to his passengers.

Travellers on the Virgin network have a choice of two fare scales. The first involves a change of trains in London and the second takes them around the Capital on a "through train". The second option was always cheaper than the first - until June when Virgin raised the price of its "through" fares by 15 per cent, making it the pricier option.

However, ticket clerks did not realise the extent of the price hike and continued selling the "through" tickets to passengers as the "cheapest fare".

The price rise angered rail pressure groups and following a campaign in The Independent, the rail regulator has acted.

In a letter, John Rhodes, passenger service director at the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR), wrote: "any instances of mis-selling of tickets is a serious matter and I have obtained an assurance from Virgin that passengers who have been overcharged will be compensated."

ORR confirmed that more than 2,000 tickets had been mis-sold. The average *excess charge" for each ticket is about £12 - leaving Virgin with a estimated bill of £24,000.

Inversnaid

By Gerard Manley Hopkins

This dárksome búrn, hórseback brówn His rollrock highroad roaring down,

A windpuff-bonnet of fawn-froth Turns and twindles over the broth

Of a pool so pitchblack, féll-frówning. It rounds and rounds Despair to drowning.

Degged with dew, dappled with dew

What would the world be, once bereft

O let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,

Wiry heathpacks, flitches of fern,

Are the groins of the braes that the brook treads through,

'Inversnaid" completes our selection from the seventh edi-

tion of Poems on the Underground, edited by Gerard Benson.

And the beadbonny ash that sits over the burn.

In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam Flutes and low to the lake falls home.

"We are in talks with Virgin at the moment about how to compensate passengers," said an ORR spokesman.

Barry Doe, the transport consultant who unearthed the mis-selling, said: "It would be wrong to blame the cierks because Virgin management failed to spot this error."

The problem for Virgin and the regulator is it will be difficult for passengers to prove that they were sold the wrong tickets. One suggestion would be to give a sizeable sum to charity and still compensate those passengers with "genuine claims".

We would consider some sort of charitable donation as a good will gesture," said John Morris, public relations manager for Virgin Trains. Sources within Virgin suggested a contribution to the Diana, Princess Wales memorial fund.

The company has backtracked since The Independent first raised the issue. In September, the chief executive of Virgin Trains wrote a letter to the editor, which was published, saying: "We normally respect Randeep Ramesh's reporting of the transport industry but on this occasion he's gone off the rails."

Pressure groups welcomed the decision to make Virgin pay. "It is good to see that in response to vigorous representations the regulator will now force Virgin to make good on its mistake," said Jonathan Bray, director of Save Our Rail-

 Hundreds of passengers were evacuated from a train yesterday after a fire broke out in one of the locomotives.

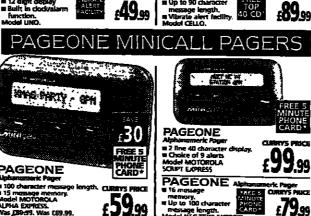
The travellers were all taken off the Virgin West Coast service and put on to another train at Wembley Central Station, in north-west London.

DAILY POEM

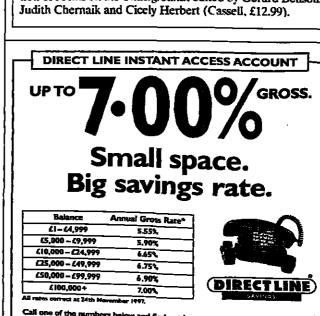
















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in talks with Virgin nent about how to e passengers, said wkesman. Doe, the transport who unearthed the , said: "It would he dame the clerks be. rgin management ot this error. oblem for Virgin and tor is it will be diffisengers to prove that sold the wrong tick-iggestion would be to sable sum to charge impensate those pas th "genuine claims" ould consider some ritable donation as gesture, said John ublic relations manirgin Trains, Sources gin suggested a cono the Diana Princes nemorial tund. ompany has but nce The Independent d the issue. In Sephe chief executard ains wrote a lenato , which was published We normally respen Ramesh s reporting of ort industry but on this ac signal of the nik." ite groups adound m to make Virginia; ad to see that in re-(vigorous representaregulator will not

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gin to make good on ike." said Jonatha actor of Sale Out Rat-

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Why a baby born in the South will live 6 years longer

Cambridge is the healthiest place to live in England, and Manchester is the country's death capital. Jeremy Laurance. Health Editor, examines a study which shows that differences in life expectancy are widening.

A boy born today in Cambridge can expect to live to the age of 76 years and seven months - six years and eight months longer than a boy born in Manchester.

The gap between the health-iest and least healthy parts of Britain is now so wide that closing it would dwarf all other efforts to improve health. Even if all cancer was cured tomorrow, the gain in life expectancy would be just three years.

The first study comparing life expectancy in all 105 health authority districts of England, published today in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, shows that the gap has widened over the last 10 years. Affluent districts with the longest-lived people in the Eighties have gained almost three times more years than the poorest districts.

of Surrey and Hampshire, life expectancy has risen 2.8 years while in inner-city Manchester showed a strong association beand Liverpool it has increased by only one year. Men in inner deprivation score. The five dis-

US DISPARITY

A man living in Washington DC, the capital of the richest country in the world, has a life expectancy of only 62 years. barely higher than if he lived in many Third World countries. But a man living less than 20 miles away, in Virginia's prosperous Fairfay County. can expect to live more than 15 years longer. This is one of the prelimi-

nary findings of a study being conducted jointly by the Harvard School of Public Health n Boston and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, it notes that the disparity between the best and worst life expectancy has been growing with the lowest 2 per cent registering no increase since 1980. The income gap has also widened over the same

Manchester and Liverpool have shown almost no improvement.

The study, by Veena Soni Raleigh and Victor Kiri of the National Institute of Epidemiology at the University of Surrey, ranked the districts from one to seven according to how deprived they were using a measure known as the Jarman index. based on unemployment rates, In the leafy home counties number of one-parent families.

elderly living alone, and so on. As expected, the findings tween life expectancy and the

tricts with the greatest deprivation (ranked seven) - in Manchester, Liverpool and three in inner London - also had the lowest life expectancy. Ms Soni Raleigh said: "That is a telling point. Life expectancy in the most deprived areas is still below what it was in the most affluent areas 10 years ago."

Living in the most deprived areas takes four years off your life, on average, for a man and two and a half years for a woman compared with living in the most affluent (ranked one).

In all areas women live longer than men, but the gender gap is widest in deprived areas. Women in inner London. Manchester and Liverpool live an extra seven years compared with four and a half in Cambridge and Surrey. Although gender differences are narrowing overall, in the most deprived areas they have hardly changed.

Dr Richard Smith, editor of

the British Medical Journal and publisher of the Journal of Epidenuology, said the findings illustrated the scale of the problem facing the Government which is committed to reducing health inequalities. Measures to improve the health of children and the new born - including nutrition in pregnancy, stopping mothers smoking and pre-school education - were likely to have the greatest effect, "We have got the ship going in the wrong di-

a long-term job," he said.



Life chances: As the gap between the healthiest and the least healthy areas widens, affluent districts gain years of life Photograph: David Swanborough

they have treated traffic acci-

dent victims and where some-

body else seems likely to have

caused the accident; find out

Care in old age to be funded by insurance

A Royal Commission on the to report back within 12 months long term care for the elderly was announced yesterday by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, with a clear signal that it is likely to recommend that everyone should pay something towards their own long term care in old age through

Mr Dobson told MPs he had asked the Royal Commission chaired by Sir Stewart Sutherland, principal and vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University.

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problem of paying for meanstested long-term care.

"As far as where the funding should come from, the matter is open," he said. "It seems to me fairly likely that in the end there will be a proposition that some of the funding should be by the individual and some by the taxpayer. I am not telling them to come to that conclusion but I will be amazed if they don't.

Des Le Grys, chairman of confusion facing the elderly.

the continuing care conference, on ways of dealing with the an umbrella organisation for carers and insurers, said private insurance was likely to be rec-

> He said it was unlikely the Royal Commission would revive the Tory government's plans for insurance to cover the asset value of people's houses, but a new insurance scheme would need policing. Help the Aged said the ernment at the last election. commission needed to end the

have assets worth more than ommended with public sector £16,000. Mr Dobson confirmed standards for domiciliary care.

A draft Tory Bill would have every £1 covered by insurance. change; and a number of medbut it fell with the Tory gov-

The Liberal Democrat spokesman on health, Simon

The 300,000 elderly in Hughes, was assured by Mr homes have to pay their own Dobson the commission would bills for long-term care if they look into the quality of care in old people's homes.

Members of the commission a White Paper next year will set will include: Claire Rayner, the broadcaster: David Lipsey, political editor of the Economist: allowed the means test to dis- Sir Nicholas Goodison, former regard assets worth £1.50 for chairman of the Stock Exical experts, but it does not include the lobby groups.

Chief Political Correspondent

NHS bill may put £20 on car premiums

Car insurance premiums could rise by an average of £20 after the announcement by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, that hospitals are to use their right to charge insurance companies

for treating accident victims. Mr Dobson ordered all NHS trusts to use their existing powers to charge insurance companies up to £2.949 for inpatients and £295 for out-patients for treatment after road traffic accidents.

yesterday's Independent, Mr Dobson said the Government would introduce legislation when it had Parliamentary time to put the onus on insurers to make the payments. The Government esti-

Confirming a report in

mates the move could save the NHS £100m but some insurers estimated it could raise the cost of an average annual premium by £20 to £370.

The NHS trusts will be stopped many from using asked to identify cases where their powers.

whether those patients are claiming compensation; discover who the insurers are: and lodge claims. Mr Dobson told the trusts that they should pursue their claims "vigorously" and ybacks Britis should not be put off by the paper chase, which had

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Tories retreat Adams and McGuinness to take their Commons fight to Strasbourg

from pledge on Europe

The Conservatives have performed a complete U-turn on their call for a referendum to be held on the Treaty of Amsterdam. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, watched the move in the Commons last night

William Hague and Michael Howard, Tory spokesman, are amendment will come up for derefusing to pick up a backbench Tory amendment to the treaty, calling for the electorate to be given a referendum.

The Independent has been told that the party leadership is now embarrassed by Mr Hague's first major speech as party leader, last June, when he told Scots Tories in Perth that the public deserved a voice on the treaty that Tony Blair had agreed earlier that month, soon after the election.

Mr Hague said Labour was a rootless party, without principles, and he pledged that he would not be ditching his beliefs at the behest of focus groups.

David Swanborough

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In the same speech, Mr Hague said Amsterdam was a bad treaty, "Bad for Europe and bad for Britain", and as Labour was so keen on referendums, he invited them to stage another: "Let's have a referendum on the Amsterdam treaty."

But Tory Euro-sceptics have noted that since the Commons opened its examination of the European Communities (Amendment) Bill, enacting Amsterdam, Tory spokesmen have been muted. More obvi-

ously, however, a backbench amendment offering the people referendum on the treaty didnot attract support of the front-

Signed by four of the Tory backbenchers who had the party whip withdrawn from them in the last Parliament - Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor, Teresa Gorman and Christopher Gill, along with two "new boys" John Bercow and Julian Lewis - it is not known when the bate and vote.

Last night, opening a Comlegislation on the Amsterdam mons debate on Europe, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. mocked the Tory stance, saying that even Mr Howard now seemed uncertain of popular support for his line on Europe.

"He has not once asked me to put the Amsterdam Treaty to a vote of the people in a referendum." Mr Cook said to Labour laughter.

However, he pointed out that Mr Howard had now been rescued by the courage and vigour of his own backbench colleagues, with their amendment to the legislation.

Later, Mr Cook directly challenged Mr Howard, asking whether he would be recom mending a vote for the backbench amendment - but Mr Howard completely ducked the question and dissociated the front bench from its previous policy saying: "It is the Government that is so besotted with referendums. If the Gov ernment is so keen on referendums....then we certainly say that the logic of the government position is that it should have one on Amsterdam."



Locked out: Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness after their meeting with the Speaker

Photograph: David Rose

Sinn Fein's two MPs plan to take their case to be granted the use of House of Commons facilities to the European Court of Human Rights, after a second ruling by the Speaker that they should be excluded.

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, who were elected in May for West Belfast and Mid-Ulster said they did not intend to take their seats or speak in the chamber and so would not need to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Crown. But after a half-hour meeting with Betty Boothroyd yesterday, they emerged to say they had been rebuffed again, as they had been in May.

Mr Adams said the decision showed that Irish republicans were still treated as second-class citizens in Westminster.

"There is a case going to Europe and that will proceed." he said. "The ruling by the Speaker was discriminatory, it was quite unjust and very unfair and

Later, Ms Boothroyd issued a statement in which she said she had no choice but to exclude the two men. They were asking for "associate status" in the House and no such status existed, she said. The two men would continue to be entitled to free stationery with which to answer constituents' queries and would have access to ministers

in the same way as other MPs. "Swearing the Oath - or affirming - is a legal requirement that can not be set aside by administrative action. Primary legislation would be needed to change the Parliamentary Oaths Act or the form of the oath. It is your refusal to swear or affirm that prevents you taking your seats - not any action by me." she told the MPs.

Harry Barnes, MP for North East Derbyshire, said the oath should simply affirm that a members' duties would be faithfully discharged.

> — Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent

Italy backs British entry to euro club

Tony Blair could win the battle for British entry to the élite club of EU countries planning the single European currency, in spite of the rebuff this week for

Gordon Brown. The Prime Minister will launch Britain's presidency at Waterloo International station today with renewed hopes of Britain gaining entry to the euro-x committee which will have control over the planning for the single currency.

The Independent has learned that Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, told Tony Blair at a private meeting in Downing Street on Wednesday that Italy will support Britain's bid for membership of the elite club, which includes Italy, France and Germany, at the Luxem-

bourg summit. The offer made by Mr Prodi, who will be at today's ceremony, has raised hopes in

Whiteball that Mr Blair will be able to pull off a deal at the summit next week.

France and Germany are opposed to British membership, but Mr Prodi told the Prime Minister that he believed it was possible to reach a deal at Luxembourg with Britain becoming a non-voting member with "observer" status. Downing Street said the meeting was routine, but it could prove to be highly significant in the buildup to the summit.

Britain is anxious to be included in the committee to retain its influence over the creation of the euro, and in making sure the terms for entry are observed by other states.

Chief Political Correspondent





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Britain keeps introducing new measures against BSE - but the focus should really be on the Continent, where a growing number of countries are reporting cases of the disease. Scientists also suspect that worse is to come. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, investigates.

Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, made no bones about it yesterday: "The risks from beef, though small, are greater in Britain than elsewhere." But is that unequivocally correct?

As the epidemic tails off in the UK, the number of cases reported in other European countries continues to rise - and with it are suspicions that some farmers there are purposely not reporting cases. Although about 350 have been reported from Continental EU members, statistical analysis suggests there should have been 1.700 cattle with the disease. "There's more infection in other countries - they're at the beginning of their epidemic, rather than the tail end," said Dr Stephen Dealler, an independent expert on BSE and its spread.

Many other countries in the EU have begun to report cases of BSE. Last month, 15 indigenous cattle; the disease was blamed by the government on infected feed imported from Belgium - which has never admitted having any BSE cases.

Portugal, Germany, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Italy and Denmark have all reported cases - though mark) to more than 200 both in Ireland and infectious than that in the UK.

Switzerland. The cause is frequently blamed on animals imported from other countries especially the UK and Switzerland. On this basis. Germany claims never to have had an "indigenous" case of BSE.

Work by a Dutch researcher, published in the Leterinary Record, also suggests many countries are under-reporting BSE cases. By analysing the age of cattle exported from Britain, he estimated that Ireland alone - which has reported 218 cases in all - should have had 1,000.

It also suggests that those countries could be at the start of their own BSE epidemics, as cattle incubating the disease are rendered in meat and bone meal which is then fed back to younger cattle - giving them time to develop full-blown BSE.

Furthermore, countries do not yet remove offal - known to be the most infectious parts of BSE-infected cows - in their slaughterhouses, though that should come into effect from 1 January. Nor do they exclude cattle over 30 months old from the food supply, as happens in the UK.

Britain is still, though, the BSE capital of the world. So far this year there have been 2.898 confirmed cases of "mad-cow disease" in the UK, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the total since 1987 is 169.472, and the epidemic is not expected to end here before 2001. Only Switzerland comes close - but is a long way Luxembourg reported its first case, one of off, with 35 cases so far this year, bringing its total since 1990 to 265.

However, if beef muscle does contain the BSE agent, it must be in concentrations hundreds or thousands of times lower than in the spinal or brain tissue. That means that until the regulations removing the spinal cord come into power across Europe, the total numbers range from one (in Den- beef from the Continent is potentially more



Blood money: A butcher pricing beef yesterday at the Smithfield meat market, London

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

DANGEROUS LIVING

How dangerous is a T-bone steak? If you drive to a restaurant with a new friend, eat a steak (on the bone), walk home, climb the stairs, have unprotected sex, then have a cigarette, which was the most risky? On the basis of the latest fatality statistics and behavioural surveys, this is how dangerous certain activities were in Britain last year.

There was one death from new-variant CJD per 200,000 whole cows consumed; one death of a driver or passenger per 15 million car journeys. one death of a pedestrian per 200 million roads crossed; one fatal fall per 500 million staircases climbed; one death from Alds for 3 million acts of unsafe sex; one death from lung cancer per 2 million cigarettes smoked.

On these figures, the risk from beef seems very smallabout one death per 30 milion half-pound portions. Steak is twice as safe as getting into a car and 15 times safer than one cigarette. Yet the risk is still unquantifiable, which is why the Government dares not say "Let them eat steak".

But there is one more figure in the last two years, there have been 22 deaths from vCJD and B deaths from CJD that occurred as a result of a medical procedure. You are more likely to catch CJD from your doctor than a cow.

Britain ignores £100m EU aid CJD). New Zealand's chief for pound by national authorities. The Government was medical officer, Colin Feek, accused yesterday of refusing to claim more

than £100m in EU aid. precautionary measure. Katherine Butler in Brussels says the money was earmarked specifically for British farmers following the rise in the value of sterling.

The European Commission said that the Minister of agriculture. Fisheries and Food. by British farmers at £200m. may have been given infected Jack Cunningham, was con- The commission then offered to sis by failing to apply for money allocated to ease the plight of British farmers.

The accusation was levelled at the Government as it emerged that 120 New Zealan- culture commissioner. Franz Fisblood product derived from a came cost-free because there plasma pool whose donors in- was no obligation on the Govcluded a Briton who later died emment to pay the same amount

said yesterday that the blood product was being recalled as a

The farmers have complained at the absence of compensation for loss of income arising both from the collapse in the beef market but also from the rise in the value of sterling against other European Union currencies.

Brussels assessed the problem first in June then in August and evaluated the loss suffered ting to the growing beef cri- pay half of this amount. Four of Health sookeswon according to baffled commission

A spokesman for the agri-Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v- ing has to be "matched" pound

EU sources privately speculated that Britain's reluctance to apply for the aid was related to fears that the United Kingdom's annual budget rebate would be reduced as a result.

The transport commissioner. Neil Kinnock, meanwhile met a deputation of Irish farm leaders in Brussels and assured them he would take whatever steps available to the commission to keep the beef trade flowing.

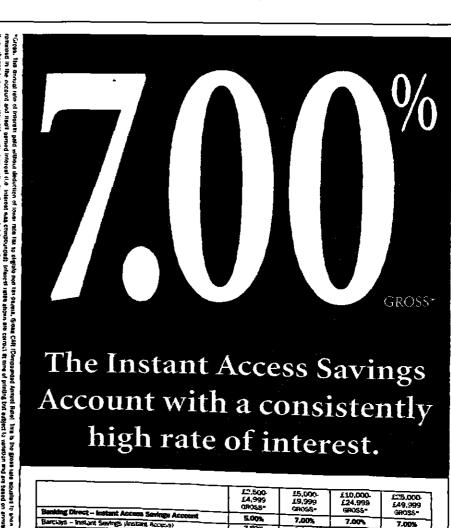
As efforts were made to trace the New Zealanders who blood, a New Zealand Ministry months later, there has been still risk of developing the disease no move to take up the money from receiving the blood product was "very low to zero", but added: "The product is being recalled because it contains a small amount of human albumin ders may have been given a chler, said that the payments [a protein] which is now known to have been prepared from a large blood donation pool that included one donor from Britain from the "new variant" in compensation. Most EU fund- who later developed the new

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ı of a pedestrian per n roads crossed: one er 500 million stair. mbed; one dead s for 3 million act sex; one death ; cancer per 2 mil ettes smoked. ese figures, the my seems very smalle death per 30 mil. aund portions, Steak safe as getting into

5 smes safer than ette. Yet the nsk s antifiable, which is Government dares et them est steak". are is one more figlast two years, there n 22 deaths from B deaths from CID rred as a result of a procedure. You are y to carch CJD from tor than a cow.

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(-,+,+,+,+,+,+) but to produce about the make or contain THE LANGEST THE what shouldn't un proporté foit. Adough septime te depot from linus developed in the



0 804 804.

protesters rally to the Welsh cause As the Government came under increasing pressure yesterday to resolve the Welsh farmers' dispute, the campaign spread to

English ports. Tony Heath

found the ban on sales of

beef on the bone fuelling

the anger.

Farmers in the south-east were he said. last night expected to converge on Dover as their anger at the tions at Welsh ports, which ban on sales of beef on bone escalated.

In Wales, nearly 200 vehicles. ranging from muckspreaders and tractors to cattle trucks and Pembroke Dock. A reported 4x4s, paraded through Abergavenny bringing the Mon- turn to Ireland - including one mouthshire market town to a carrying dairy products. standstill.

business is also affected sent vehicles to join the protest which was carefully orchestrated and policed.

Farmers from Herefordshire joined their Welsh counterparts. Hastily produced posters carried messages ranging from "I thought we won the war," to "Let's fillet the EU and turn our rump on them.

display at a firm of solicitors try is at stake." alongside a legal poster urging people to make their will something that may have trying to ensure safe passage for prompted one vehicle's poster everyone. The Dyfed-Powys complaining: "We are a dying

pers asked: "Would you be and trying to balance the rights happy if your incomes were re- of everyone involved. duced to between 50 and 75 per

Philip Bromwell, who with a spokesman said. his wife Gillian travelled 20 miles from their farm at Gros- Farmers' Union and the Farmmont, a village astride Offa's ers' Union of Wales appealed

Government are killing our in- within the law." dustry."

Anger spreads as

Trevor Beavan has reduced his herd of cattle from 150 to 70. the FUW president Bob Parry That was a measure of the problems on his 1,100 acreholding at Llandetherien, a couple of miles outside the town, "There was no way I could have survived otherwise,"

The overnight demonstrapreceded the Abergavenny cavalcade, involved more than 2,000 protesters at Holyhead. 700 at Fishguard and 400 at nine vehicles were forced to re-

There were signs that the Haulage companies whose bonds between the Celtic nations were beginning to frav as Irish truckers expressed concern at the threat to their own liveli-

Jimmy Quinn of the Irish Road Haulage Association called on consumers in the Republic to boycott British produce. He expressed disappointment at an alleged failure of policing and declared: "The Messages of support were on survival of a major Irish indus-

North Wales Police, which covers Holyhead, said they were force, which polices Fishguard and Pembroke Dock, said it was Leaflets handed out to shop- a question of solving problems

"We have been very suc-

Leaders of the National



cessful in facilitating dialogue.

Dyke, said: "My cows now fetch for restraint. Sir David Naish,

Irish demand right to free trade

The Prime Minister was last night under pressure from Dublin and Brussels to bring about an immediate end to farmers' disruption of Irish exports into Britain.

After angry attacks in the Dail on the failure of British authorities to control the situation at ports from Wales to Scotland. Mr Blair was contacted directly by the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, to press for an end to the blockade preventing movement of Irish meat through ports. which yesterday also began to affect consignments of dairy produce.

_Mr Ahern's was one of a number of Irish initiatives also involving four European Commissioners. Talks also took place in London yesterday between the Irish agriculture minister, Joe Walsh, and his British counterpart, Jack Cunningham.

In the Dail, Labour leader Ruairi Quinn said the port incidents were "a flagrant breach of international law", accusing police of "facilitating the mob in deciding which trucks would get through and which would

He demanded a compensation claim against British authornes come from the Irish Government itself, and not be left to private individuals. The British Ambassador should be summoned to hear the Irish

complaints: Mr Quinn said. Fine Gael leader John Bruton said Irish exporters were being denied the right to trade by a mob. He said "a strong united front" had to be presented by Dublin in defence of the rule

of law, "something which we had expected would be en-

forced by Britain". After Irish complaints to the agriculture secretary in London had failed to stop the blockade for a fourth night, Mr Ahern told the Dail it was time for Dr Cunningham "to put his

good words into action". He confirmed Dublin was exerting pressure on the EU Transport Commissioner, the former Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, to put pressure on his British Labour col-

The Thoiseach pledged his support in efforts to secure compensation from London.

The president of the Irish Farmers' Association, John Donnelly, met Mr Kinnock and urged the right of access to British markets be protected. Earlier, after contacts with three other commissioners, he was given assurances that the commission was reminding

Britain of its treaty obligations. Mr Donnelly said: "We're part of the single market. We're entitled to get our product to the market place.

"It is disgraceful that the British police stand aside and allow those farmers to inspect what is on Irish trucks and then decide to turn them back."

He added: "We are not responsible for the problems Welsh farmers have with their own Government. It's about time they took (London) on and not be taking on Irish beef farmers who also have a very se-

rious income problem." — Alan Murdoch, Dublin

ADVERTISEMENT **PROTEST** MEETING

Against Indian Government's failure to punish the perpetrators of Babari Mosque destruction on 6th December 1992 and anti-social December 1972 and anti-sections the against humanity during the ensuing riots; and wrongful detention of hundreds of Muslims under

Saturday 6th December 1997 6pm INDIAN MUSLIM FEDERATION (UK) HALL Trinity Close, London Ell 4RP Tcl: 0181 558 6399

50 per cent less than they did a NFU president, said in a mesyear ago. We are protesting sage to Welsh farmers: "Peacebecause we have been driven to - ful presentation of our case to extreme action because the the public is helpful, but do keep

> After meeting the Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, said he would attempt to dissuade his members from further demonstrations.

The ability of the unions' leadership to control events remains unclear. Permanent pickets are being set up at the ports. Earlier this week, one irate Irish driver held up at Fishguard told protesting farmers: "Why don't you go and picket

Downing Street. It may yet come to that,



Traffic signal: Members of the Gwent Farmers Action group en route to a protest meeting yesterday in Abergavenny

Photograph: Rob Strattor



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LAPHROAIG no half measures.

Fires expose Australia's dirty record

Bushfires are racing across south-eastern Australia, threatening towns and suburbs. Robert Milliken in Sydney says the fires are also fuelling criticism of Australia's stand on global warming, which has left it isolated at the Kyoto conference on climate change.

After three days of fearsome fires, which have taken the lives of two fire-fighters, invaded the suburbs of southern Sydney and left more than 600,000 acres devastated, the authorities are preparing for a red alert today. The worst fires were blazing near Coonabarabran, in north-west New South Wales, the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, and Lithgow, west of Sydney.

But many are asking if Australia is not getting a foretaste of more natural disasters, unless it changes its policy and helps to cut the emission of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Fighting and surviving fires is embedded into the Australian psyche. But there is little doubt that Australia is experiencing such tragedies with growing regularity. Few people this year were prepared for a return of fires so soon after the last conflagrations in 1994, when the suburbs in bushland valleys close to the centre of Sydney went up in flames.

The last widespread fires before that were those of "Ash Wednesday in 1983, when 76 people died in the states of Victoria and South Australia: in 1967, when 62 died in Tasmania and on "Black Friday" in 1937. which took 71 lives in Victoria.

This year, the fires began even before the official start of the Australian summer in De- lation. cember, getting under way last week during some of the hottest rely on binding targets to reduce and driest November weather emissions of greenhouse gases

The conditions were caused in part by El Nino - the waether phenomenon caused by warm ocean currents in the east Pa-



Inferno: Scotsman's Hill on the edge of Lithgow, west of Sydney. Yesterday, more than 150 fires were burning in New South Wales Photograph: Adam Pretty

cific which is said to be responsible for the worst drought in memory in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

But the fires are also being linked to wider fears about global warming that have brought 160 countries together in Kyoto this week in search of agreement on action. There, Australia faces diplomatic iso-

While such a treaty would such as carbon dioxide. Ausrich countries, is proposing to

increase its emissions. John Howard, the Prime

greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase by 18 per cent above 1990 levels by 2010. The European Union, by contrast, has proposed a 15 per cent cut.

Australia is already the world's sixth-highest emitter of carbon dioxide per capita, behind Canada, the United States, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore. It is one of which is a consequence of the clearance of forests for farming.

Australia's stand has drawn tralia, alone among the world's criticism from Britain and furious attacks from several small Pacific island nations. They blame their big neighbour for that a country as blessed with

Minister, has said Australia's contributing to rising sea levels that threaten to sink them. With a land mass the size of the United States, and a population of only 18 million. Australia argues that it should be a special case.

sunshine and empty spaces as

Australia should be doing more

to develop alternative energy

sources, such as solar and wind

power. They accuse Mr

Howard's conservative coali-

tion government of bowing to

this approach, more fires can be

the fossil-fuel lobby.

tions this week. Such fires be-

come almost impossible to

control when the temperature

rises above 35C and humidity

falls. According to a recent sci-

entific report, the number of

days in Australia per year when

35C is expected to double by

Unless Australia changes the temperature will rise above

Its major exports are metals, minerals, food and chemicals, and their production involves intensive energy driven by greenhouse-producing fossil fuels expected like those that have 2070. such as coal; Australia uses no the biggest emitters of methane. nuclear energy. The country maintains that, if it was forced to peg 2010 emissions at 1990 levels, 90,000 potential jobs and A\$12 bn (£5bn) worth of investment could be lost.

Environmental critics say

Greenhouse gases put heat on EU

The European Union came to Kyoto proud that it had the greenest stance in the industrialised world. Its negotiating position is that all developed countries should cut their annual "greenhouse gas" emissions by a thumping 15 per cent by 2010 compared with their 1990 level. No one else comes close in terms of will-

ingness to tackle the threat of catastrophic climate change. But yesterday the EU found its virtue under question and the host nation, Japan, was a leading questioner. Japan is even saying the EU should make deeper emission cuts than other nations. "We can't understand why the host country is leading this offensive," said Pierre Gramegna, Luxembourg's ambassador to Tokyo. Mr Gramegna said that there was no question of Europe agreeing to take deeper cuts in emissions than other major industrialised nations, such as the United States and Japan.

The issue is that while the EU as a whole is ready to deliver a 15 per cent cut, that will not apply to individual member states. Some poorer nations who produce well below the union's average emissions will be allowed big increases over the 20-year period - 40 per cent in the case of Portugal, the biggest gainer. Their gain will be made up by wealthier nations, notably Germany and the United Kingdom. Tiny Luxembourg, Europe's biggest climate polluter in per capita terms, stands ready to make a 30 per cent cut.

Other countries say this "sharing the pain" approach gives the EU states an unfair advantage. Toshiaki Tonabe, the senior Japanese negotiator and Tokyo's ambassador for global environmental affairs, said that in view of this, it was only fair that the EU took on "a higher degree of responsibility" in tackling climate change.

He compared Japan to France, which produce roughly the same quantity of greenhouse gas emissions per head. Under the EU proposal, France would only have to stabilise its emissions at the 1990 level by 2010. Why, then, should Japan have to make a 15 per cent cut?

— Nicholas Schoon, Kyoto

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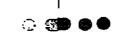
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15/WORLD NEWS

Pensioners march as China fails to pay its bills

Angry pensioners in a south-western Chinese city went on the march this week to demand their overdue money. Teresa Poole in Peking says workers and pensioners who are owed money by their factories are no longer accepting their plight sitting down.

The story of the pensioners at the Yibin Phosphate Fertilizer Factory in Sichuan province is repeated all the time in towns and cities from one end of China to the other. Sometimes the demonstrators are pensioners but more often they are workers owed their salaries or made redundant by state enterprises, half of which are losing money. In a country where cradle-tograve welfare benefits were supposed to be provided by ers' protests in the only way it one's "danwei" (work unit), the new reality of market forces has left the workers feeling cheated.

On Wednesday, about 200 retired factory workers took to ate the pressure. the streets of Yibin to complain that some of them had not received their meagre pensions for tor, which is state-owned, is inup to a year. Their factory stopped production some time non-performing loans that have ago, as a result of bad management and inefficient production paid. Sorting out the banking ers to contact factory managers and local officials proved fruit-terprises, which in turns means less, so they took to the streets.

A few days earlier, in the city of Zigong, in Sichuan, about 300 people went on strike at the New York-based Human Rights in China. They were demonstrating over unpaid salaries and were joined by other state workers protesting about several other state factories being declared bankrupt.

sort out its ailing state sector by any means, be it privatisation, merger or closure. These recent two demonstrations were small; but in the past two years there have been cases when thousands took to the streets to protests.

The next stage of economic reform will be the most difficult, and fears of social unrest are at the forefront of China's leaders' minds. In some industrial cities in the north-east, real unemployment is probably running at up to 50 per cent. In the countryside, the situation is equally daunting by 2000 the surplus labour force in rural areas will top 370 million, according to the wellinformed Outlook magazine.

a vicious circle, and one made worse by the financial turmoil in countries such as South Korea, Thailand and Japan. Faced with the absolute priority of maintaining social order, Peking tends to react to workknows - it tells the state banks to lend yet more money to the state enterprises so they can pay wages and pensions and allevi-

That locks the banks further into debt. China's banking secsolvent, with around \$200bn in little or no chance of being relines. Attempts by the pension- problem depends on sorting out the loss-making state enaxeing tens of millions of jobs.

Peking was counting on its buoyant economic growth and foreign investment to help mop No 2 Radio Factory, according up those lost workers. In fact, to information received by the economic growth in 1998 is expected to fall to 8 per cent, still respectable but the lowest rate for eight years. Foreign investment is forecast to slump by one-quarter to \$30bn, much less than China has grown accustomed to. For the leadership This is the fruit of the Chi- in Peking, 1998 will be a year of nese government's pledge to grim economic choices.

Palme suspect Wallenberg'

Christer Pettersson, who was Russian Justice Minister Sergei convicted of killing Prime Minister Olof Palme but released after the conviction was over-

turned, could face a new trial. Prosecutor-General Klas Jews in the Second World War. Bergenstrand will file an application for a new trial today. The Supreme Court is expected to approve the application.

Palme was gunned down on a central Stockholm avenue in 1986 as he and his wife walked home, unguarded, from a cinema. Police have been widely criticised as responding slowly and with confusion.

Pettersson was convicted of the shooting in 1989 but the conviction was overturned by an appeal court on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

Stepashin yesterday said it is likely that the Soviets killed the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg for his role in saving

"There were many agreements between Hitler and Stalin, especially on the issue of Jews," said Mr Stepashin, who accompanied President Boris Yeltsin on a three-day visit to Sweden which ended yesterday. "I believe that was the main reason why they killed him: he knew too much about Stalinism and fascism."

Wallenberg is credited with saving 20,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. He was arrested by the Soviet Army and vanished in the Soviet gulag.

Socialists unite for bid to topple Kohl

Germany's Social Democrats ended their biannual conference on a high note yesterday by endorsing a modernist blueprint for the economy.

United at last by their desire to even if it involved cutting wages. regain power after 16 years, delegates in Hanover were urged on, was ripe for renewal. to harness the forces unleashed by globalisation. "We can decide would like to claim the political whether we want to be the middle ground. The party Gerhard Schröder, the SDP said. "We are going forward". leader deemed to have the best chance to unseat Helmut Kohl. true. After Mr Lafontaine's

festo for innovation that he Schröder's shift to the right yeswas proposing sought to dis- terday regained the original tance the party from the dream course. The bitter divisions evworld projected on the cenfer- ident in the last congress two ence's first day by Oskar La-years ago were no longer visi-

opportunities of globalisation April, when a candidate to fight and to use them, not paralyse ourselves with constant lament-

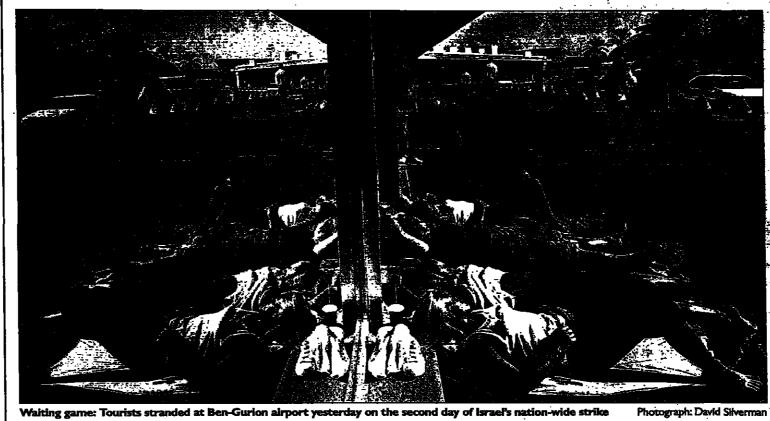
ing," Mr Schröder declared bluntly. "Too much of politics in Germany is based on fear." Mr Schröder urged German

workers to stay in competition, The "German model", he went

Chancellor Kohl, he said, hammer or the anvil in the should not oblige him. "Our process of globalisation," said course is clear." Mr Schröder

In yachting terms, that is His speech and the mani- left turn on Tuesday, Mr fontaine, champion of the left. ble this week. Forward they go, "I want us to stress the great at least until next March or Mr Kohl must be chosen.

– Imre Karacs. Bonn



Hippy escapes extradition

A French court yesterday refused to extradite a hippy leader convicted of murdering his girlfriend in Pennsylvania. hra Einhorn, 57, who has been on the run since 1981, may still be deported to the US for entering, and staying in, France under a false passport.

An appeal court in Bordeaux dismissed the extradition request on the grounds that Einhorn had been tried in absentia in the US in 1993.

Einhorn, who was arrested in in June, appeared in the court in Angoulême in white beard, faded jeans and blue shirt. When the judgement was read out, he said simply: "Thank

He was a celebrated leader of the 1960s hippy movement and has denied murdering his girifriend Hellen Maddux. - John Lichfield, Paris



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Jail raid frees Rwanda mass murderers

a Rwandan jail, releasing fellow Hutus held for alleged genocide. Amelia French in Kigali says the government which came to power after the genocide fears it is succumbing to a bush army of killers.

The group of around 300 armed Hutus stormed a makeshift jail in central Rwanda on Wednesday in what appears to have been a well-planned attack.

At least 500 prisoners were freed and all of them escaped, along with the militiamen. The army said six civilians were also killed when militiamen attacked their homes in the same settlement; some of them had been macheted to death.

The prisoners who got away were – like the militiamen – all

The dead are all believed to have been Tutsis. They were the survivors of the Hutu-inspired genocide that decimated the country's Tutsi minority in 1994. Now it appears that the

same men who killed up to a million Tutsis before their regime was overthrown three years ago are returning from the forests where they have been hiding to take revenge on the few who survived. Since the return late last year

of almost 2 million Hutu refugees from exile in surrounding countries, this tiny central African country has become a battlefield in an undeclared war between the Hutu rebels and the Tutsi-led government. The jailbreak in Bulinga, in

central Rwanda was the second of its kind in two days. According to the country's military, more than a hundred prisoners poorly armed, the soldiers apwere sprung from a jail at Rwercre, in the north-west. almost exactly 24 hours earlier. Since April this year, Hutu

militiamen have stepped up their campaign of violence in the north-west, staging ambushes and attacking military and settlements which are home throughout the country.

Militiamen have attacked to those Tutsis who survived the genocide. The Rwandan government says it is no coincidence that the violence has increased simultaneously with the most recent mass repatriation of Hutu refugees from eastern Zaire.

They say many of the returnees are members of the former army or their militia allies. the so-called interhamwe, who led the 1994 killings. "Those in the jail have the same ideology as the militiamen," Richard Sezibera, a military spokesman, said vesterday.

The prisons are an easy target. With an estimated 120,000 Hutus awaiting trial for the carnage of 1994, virtually every district has had to hurriedly transform unused buildings into makeshift jails. Some have standing room only. Hygiene and sanitation are pitifully bad and disease is rife.

But, many detainees seem to feel safer in than out. Many fear retribution from Tutsis in their home districts. There have even been reports of returnees asking to be let into the jails. Some are so ramshackle that anyone wanting to escape could do so easily, though they would risk being shot.

The lack of will to escape means that security has not been a serious problem. In addition, the number of jails and the conflict in the north-west means few soldiers can be spared to guard each one. So, when hundreds of armed men attack a prison, they meet little resistance. Those inside seize the opportunity to escape prison and justice. Once outside. they have little choice but to stick with the militiamen.

The spate of jailbreaks is bad news for Rwanda's army, which says it is already fighting an estimated 15,000 militiamen in the north-west. Although the army insists the militiamen are pear to be flat out trying to deal with them. The prospect of ever increasing numbers of genocide suspects being re-

leased is an alarming one. The attack in Bulinga, which was well south of the rebels' normal field of activity, is also a sign targets, local officials, prisons that the insurgency is spreading



UN to drop food by plane as thousands of Somalis flee rising floods

The United Nations World Food Programme is to begin air-dropping food for thousands of people trapped by rising flood waters in southern Somalia, the

agency said yesterday. A spokeswoman, Lyndsey

Davies, said the drops would beweekend of public service announcements on the BBC's Somali language service, warning residents of the areas not to crowd around the drop zones.

with landing planes, we know people tend to crowd around food distributions, and this tion centre in the southern could cause security problems." coastal town of Kismayo, where Somalia has had no central

"We have to ensure safety." Ms government since 1991, and after fleeing their flooded gin on Monday, following a Davies said. "From experience the BBC Somali service often homes, turned violent last week serves as a national radio.

The bodies of suspected Hutu guerrillas lying where they were shot by Rwandan troops at Bulinga

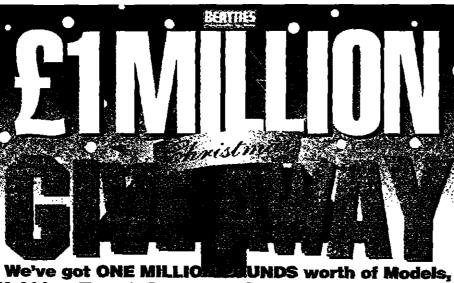
A crowd at a food distributens of thousands are camped

when the number of people who showed up far outnumbered the supply of relief food. One

woman was killed. Heavy rains that began in aid agencies.

early October have inundated large portions of southern Somalia, causing the Juha and Shabelle Rivers to overflow their banks and adversely affecting a million people, according to

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Italy's pupils enjoy thrill of class war

Two weeks ago a hundred pupils barricaded themselves into a high school in Rome to protest against education reforms. A few days

later police stormed the building. With angry pupils still plotting their next move it sounds like the beginning of a revolution, but, says Andrew Gumbel, in Italy's state school system it is simply par for the course.

The children who gathered outside the hattered facade of the Liceo Mamiani yesterday were not in a mood to mess about. Still seething about the brutal end to their little experiment in educational self-rule. they were discussing their next move. Should they continue to boycott television chat shows? Should they keep trying to break back into the school, or push for a withdrawal of the large police van standing guard outside the main gate?

We have the right to express ourselves and discover the individual within us. They can't stop us just because we are behaving out of the norms of ordinary behaviour," began one 16-year-old boy. before his comrades reminded him of their media blackout.

The youngsters were dressed mainly in black, grunge-style, with a definite preference for pierced noses and Palestinian keffiyehs. On one of the school's outer walls, someone had spray-painted: "Leave no room for the Fascists!"

It looked like 1968 all over again, and in a sense it was. The last time the police came to clear the anarchists out of the Liceo Mamiani was in that fateful year. But appearances can be deceptive; what looked like a full-scale youth rebellion was, in fact, little more than a well-worn ritual among Italy's disaffected teenagers.

The Mamiani has been occupied by its pupils at regular intervals for as long as anyone can remember. So, too, have a slew of other schools in the larger Italian cities. It is not the problem schools that are hit, but those used by the offspring of rich families who fancy themselves as left-wing.

The object of the exercise is not to rebel against the authority of the teachers. The What greater fun can there be than to tell

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& ANSWERING

MACHINE MODEL FREESTYLE 110 your elders to get lost, hold dope-befuddled parties that last for days, organise student-run classes on such illuminating topics as Red Brigades terrorism and the redundancy of parents, and watch videos of 2001: A Space Odyssev into the early hours?

To be fair, the most recent occupation of the Mamiani and 60 other schools was rooted in a genuine grievance; a government proposal to take some £60m in funding from the severely under-resourced state school system and give it to private schools, especially religious ones.

But this noble cause was soon overtaken by the sheer thrill of disobedience. The Mamiani's headmaster, Giuliano Ligabue, newly arrived from a sleepy school in Sardinia, evidently had trouble believing his eyes and was soon circulating stories to his superiors about rampant drug use, outbreaks of violence and even the reported sighting of a revolver.

Mr Ligabue's alarm prompted the nolice raid. On Monday, the headmaster went to the Education Ministry to resign, leaving the coast clear for the police to drag the 100 or so protesters off into custody for identity checks (there were no arrests).

There were reports of broken windows and lavatories in sad disrepair, but such was ever the state of the Mamiani. There were reports that a criminal gang called Flaminio Mafia had taken over the school and was peddling drugs and even arms. But only a few grams of marijuana were found, some wooden sticks and lavatory chains. It is still not clear if Flaminio Mafia exists as anything more than the name of a teenage rap

The whole farcical spectacle is a symptom of the fact that the Italian school system has neither the means nor the political will to work. English teachers can barely speak English and science labs have next to no equipment. There are rarely any sporting, or any other, extra-curricular activities. Latin, on the other hand, is compulsory in nearly all high schools - an anachronism that dates back to the time when education was the preserve of the Church.

"The school system is no more than an elegant con-trick, using fantasy politics as a substitute for education," commented one disillusioned former academic.

The students of the Mamiani may be having the time of their lives, but if they point is to rebel for the sake of rebelling. are the future of Italy it doesn't look too

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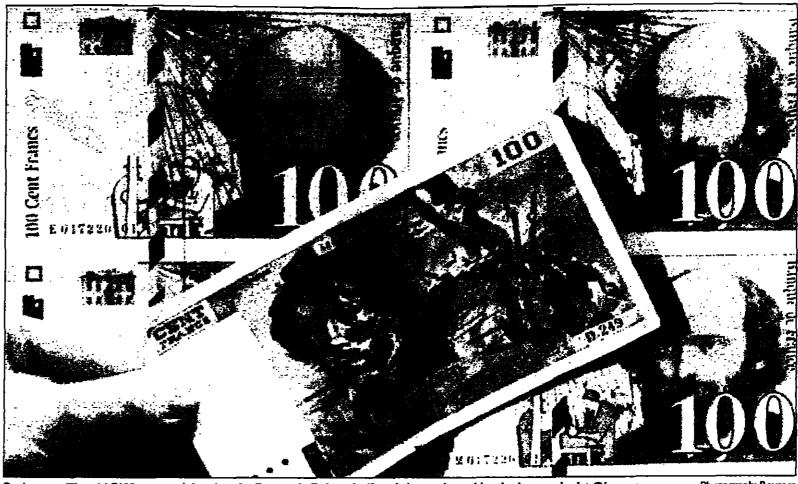
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Pocket art: The old F100 note, celebrating the Romantic Delacroix (front), is supplanted by the Impressionist Cézanne

Photograph: Reuter:

The final franc note cashes in on Cézanne

Paul Cezanne's father would, finally, have been proud of him. The great Impressionist, who refused to follow his papa into banking, has been chosen as the theme of the last French banknote. From next Monday week. the Bank of France will issue a new, hi-tech 100-franc note featuring a portrait of Cezanne and details from two of his paintings. The card-players and Apples and biscuits.

The design, the subject of two false starts and much discussion, will survive for fourand-a-half years before the franc is merged into the European single currency, the euro. It will be the last of a long and ornate line going back to the creation of the franc in 1795 and the first franc notes in 1796.

Originally, the Bank of France intended to honour the Lumière brothers, inventors of cinema. They were cut from the script when it was pointed out they had sympathised with the Vichy regime during the Second World War. The second plan was to honour the painter Henri Matisse. His surviving relatives objected, pointing out that he had always detested money.

Finally, Cezanne was chosen. ahead of the singer Edith Piaf and the writer Colette. The new note (worth roughly £10) will join a series with the 50franc note (starring the writer and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupery, the 200-franc (Gustave) (Pierre and Marie Curie). One painter replaces an-

note, the only one in the world to show a half-naked woman, celebrates Eugène Delacroix. It includes an approximate rehare-breasted woman leading a revolutionary charge. The governor of the Banque

other. The present 100-franc-

de France, Jean-Claude Trichet. defended - on three counts - the decision to introduce a new note in the late evening of the franc's

The 100-franchote, the most





Currency of fame: Matisse (right), who failed to make it on to the new F100 notes when his relatives objected, and Cézanne (left), who is to adom the latest unit of exchange

commonly used one, survives for a maximum of 15 months in circulation in any case. The use of Eiffel) and the 500-franc note new technologies makes the Cézanne design cheaper to print and 10 times harder to counterfeit.

There is an unspoken, tourth reason. France is in competition with other countries for a contract to print some of the curo production of his painting of a notes which will replace the currencies of up to 11 EU countries from 1 July 2002. The production of the new

Cezanne note, incorporating a supposedly unfakeable new form of metallic security band. a licence to print euros.

is a French down-payment on — John Lichfield, Paris

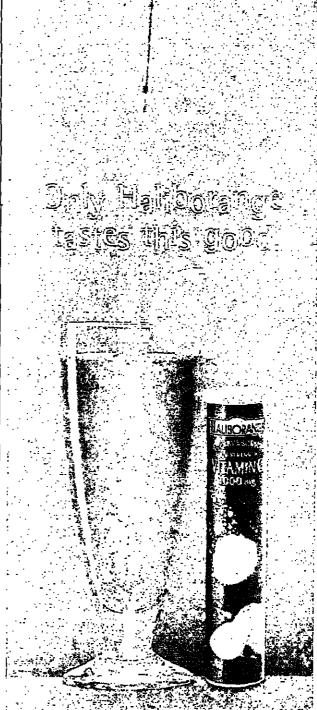
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The Baron and the cleaner - if not a fairy tale, what?

He is from the aristocracy. She is from the Philippines. He is 69, she is 36. He is pretty useless round the house, she is pretty useful (she used to do for him). They are recently married, and having a baby. Nice! says Ann Trenemon.

Lord Southampton sees his marriage to his 36-year-old Filipina cleaner as a fairy tale come true, "We fell in love," says the 69year-old peer. "It is a bit of a fairy tale, and I think most people like fairy tales. Barbara Cartland's agent has been in touch to see if we could help her with a book."

Well, whatever Dame Barbara may think, this is not a fairy tale. For starters, penniless Cinderella did not marry the old guy sitting on the throne. She married the handsome young prince on the dashing white horse. Then they cantered off into the sunset - too young and too much in love to realise that the whole thing was destined to give them saddle sores and a whacking great chance of divorce.

No, the story of the peer and his cleaner -which was broken by the News of the World with the memorable headline "Bed, nob and broomsticks!" - is something else entirely and in many ways it is a thoroughly modern match. But first, a recap of the story and its characters so far.

Lord Charles James FitzRoy, 6th Baron Southampton, is descended from Charles II. The family owes its fortunes to the king's celebrated mistress, Barbara Villiers, so there is a certain tradition to keep up. The present peer's father ran off with a chorus girl when he was 17, and Lord Southampton himself ran off with his first wife, Pamela, when he was 22 and she was only 16. There, however, the wild times end. They were married for 46 years, and had two children, now aged aged 45 and 41, and seven grandchildren. The first Lady Southampton died in February, from ovarian cancer.

Alma Pasqual grew up a world away from all this, as the daughter of a shopkeeper in the village of Tarlac, near Manila. In an arrangement that owes much to the mail-order bride business, she came to Devon to marry an electrician, Bryan Slater, after an 18-month correspondence. The marriage was not a success and, amid financial and other troubles, Alma decid-1992, she came to be hired at £5 an hour by Lady Southampton to clean Stone Cross, a five-bedroom country house, worth £500,000. At Alma's home, things got worse - "I was treated like a skivvy" - and she started divorce proceedings.



Lord Southampton with his Filipina bride Alma Slater at their home in Chagford, Devon

Photograph: Nic Pai/South West News Service

And so the stage was set. Lord prised. "Out of the blue he told me that Southampton is described as being "impractical around the home". One suspects that this means completely useless, and as a widower he began to rely more and more ed to look for work as a cleaner. Thus, in on Alma. Then, one day, he decided that he needed a new fridge. "He is not very good at shopping," says Alma. "That was the first time we went out together."

The peer told Hello! that he decided to pop the question over a meal in a Chinese restaurant in Taunton. His cleaner was sur- gap, the fact that the new Lady Southamp-

he was in love with me. It never occurred to me what was happening inside of him. I think I said 'Bloody hell'. I just never expected it. I told James I would have to think about it." In June, she accepted his proposal. They married last month, and now the new Lady Southampton is pregnant.

Some people claim to be shocked. though whether this is because of the

Philippines, is unclear. But all these factors—at considerable risk—it's not unusual for contribute to the reason why we should not them to die [soon] too. For men it can be

Romance and bereavement are no many more widows (2.9 million) than widowers (684,000) in Britain. While this is partly explained by the fact that women live longer, men are also far more likely to rerecentness of the first wife's death, the age marry, and quickly, too. "Men are healthier if they have a partner," says Averil Bill Howard, of the World Association of the way of the world.

ton was a cleaner, or that she is from the Leimon, a psychologist, "Bereaved men are a life-saver to find another woman." Often. the dying wife will instruct a husband to find strangers, especially for men. There are a new wife, Both Lord Southampton and his new wife have said they believe Pamela

would have approved of their match. Nor should we be surprised by the fact that she is a Filipina. The "brides of the Orient" are much in demand these days.

Introduction Agencies, says that there has been a 15 per cent increase in the number of European and North American men marrying Oriental women, and that the former gas chief Brian Clegg is only the highest-profile man to admit to having done such a thing. The 75-year-old former chairman of Northern Gas paid £3,000 in air fares and dating agency fees to go to Bangkok, where he met a 23-year-old Thai waitress called Joom. They wed after a three-day courtship conducted in a shared hotel room. "I'm sure we will be happy." says Mr Clegg. "And when I have gone. Joom will be set up for the rest of her life." In many ways, it could be said that Mr

Clegg has gone out of his way - Bangkok is not an Awayday, after all - to find the ultimate non-trophy wife. But others would see it differently. The men who seek out Oriental brides are usually divorced, and are looking for women with traditional values. The women - and 60 per cent come from the Philippines - are looking to escape the worst kind of poverty. "Almost all Filipina girls marry for economic reasons," says Mr Hunter, "though perhaps the men don't think of it that way."

Not so much true love as true practicalities, then. But it seems to work for many. Charles Black, of Siam Introductions - the firm used by Mr Clegg ~ conducts a twoyear check-up for its clients and reports an 85 per cent success rate. "That's a lot bet ter than most English marriages." he says.

Alma Pasqual was one of those whose penpal husband turned out to be Mr Wrong. Unlike many such brides, she took her future into her own hands and decided that she would rather get divorced and return to the Philippines than live in such

Then came that unexpected question in the Chinese restaurant, and she is now in a rather wonderful and rare position. She is a Filipina in Britain who is marrying a wealthy older man without the help of an agency. She has always wanted a family, and now she is to have children who will be aristocrats (if her baby is a boy the plan is to name him Charles, after the future king). Her husband is thrilled by what he calls his new life. "I am hoping Alma will do the latenight nappy duties," he says. "I don't g think I am up to it at my age."

She used to be paid £5 an hour to clean. and now she is rich in her own right. "Neither of us can believe it's happening," she says. "I used to clean this beautiful house - and now it is my home." But, it must be said, she is still cleaning. "We can't really afford staff now, so I'll still do all the housework myself." Spoken like a truly traditional wife. And that's no fairy tale - that's just

THE INDEPENDENT



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Making legal history: Di's divorce lawyer and the poet

What have lawyers and poets got in common? Plenty, according to Anthony Julius and his colleagues at top law firm Mishcon de Reya, who have appointed a poet in residence. Robert Verkaik gets on the case.

A shy male lawyer recently informed Lavinia Greenlaw that he wouldn't be coming to her inaugural poetry workshop at Mishcon de Reya. When the newly appointed poet-inresidence at the Princess of Wales's law firm asked him why this was so, he replied: "Because I don't want anyone to

know I write poetry." Greenlaw, who since her appointment has won this year's £1.000 Forward Prize for the year's best poem, took this apparent stumbling-block in her stride. "It's very important." she says, "to understand that people are not going to find it easy to share something like poetry with their work colleagues. They can send me poems through the e-mail and we need never meet.

if they wish." Anthony Julius, is credited with the initiative. He is the partner who advised Diana. Princess of Wales in her £15m divorce settlement, and who now plans to divorce his own wife of 21 years and marry the journalist Dina Rabinovitch. the daughter of an ultraorthodox rabbi. He is the firm's head of litigation, and a respected writer who last year published a critique of TS Eliot's anti-Semitism. But he has, says Greenlaw, deliberately kept a low profile, and did not volunteer to take part in the first workshop.

The Misheon de Reya project, though trait-blazing, is not unique. This year Barnsley Football club appointed a poet her presence felt. to chronicle its historic en-

Poetry Society is looking at other ways to bring poets to the world of business, and to this out the day people write back end has given Marks & Spencer with their own poems or £5,000 of its £450,000 National Lottery grant to fund a poet-inresidence. Chris Meade, the society's director, says that more poets in company posts can be expected.

The Misheon project at first encountered cynicism from some of its own lawyers, who felt that the £10,000 for one half day a week could have been better spent. But eventually they opt-

suggestions for poems. Some people are baffled, others are provoked." She also goes on office walkhave already produced one or two knee-jerk reactions to poets

and poetry. "People who have not read a poem for perhaps 30 years, or since they left school, suddenly

with some comment. Through-

look at me and think, 'a poet, ed for this means of supporting poetry; what do I know about



Chapter and verse from Lavinia Greenlaw

the arts, while at the same time bringing light relief to lawyers who pride themselves on working 25-hour days. The nature of the arrangement was first made clear to Greenlaw when she met the unusually heavyweight interview panel, comprising the poet Tom Paulin, Chris Meade,

and Anthony Julius. At a party to welcome her to the firm, 120 staff, half the workforce, turned out to say hello. At first it must have looked as if the diminutive, 35vear-old, self-effacing poet who had not known any lawyers before she met the firm - was in danger of being drowned in a sea of loud voices and pin-

striped suits. Since then she has found her own way of making

poetry?' During a fire drill I found myself on the fire escape talking about Coleridge."

All staff in the firm. from re-

ceptionists to senior partners, are invited to join the workshops. The first, held last last month, was so heavily oversubscribed that Greenlaw was forced to limit the number of participants to 10. But of those 10, three said work commitments prevented them from joining the group at the last inute. They were all men.

She is very keen to overcome any language barriers, and so get to grips with the "bland corporate speak" which, she complains, has infected the professions. Greenlaw, who had Explains Greenlaw: "Every con, says lawyers "can be very Reya.

trance to the Premiership. The week, when I come in, I put a fuddy-duddy or slippery in their different poem in the e-mail use of speech. Some have suggested that I would be frustrated by the dryness or extreme fluency of their language."

People still ask her for words which rhyme with solicitor, in the belief that she is some kind of law firm laureate, paid to proabouts, where her encounters duce corporate doggerel, and employed to be at the beck and call of the partners.

But Greenlaw has discovcred that poets and lawyers have much in common. Apart from Dante and Ovid, whom she names as poets who trained in the law, she homes in on the shared use of words as tools to 😽 construct persuasive argu-

At a makeshift workshop, Alex George, 27 - one of the three lawyers who did not turn up last time - professes his disappointment at missing out. He supports Greenlaw's proposal that every fortnight a poem is posted in the lift, and recommends Philip Larkin's poem

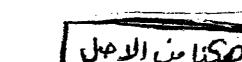
"For Sidney Bechet". The discussion moves on to the value of learning poems by heart. Greenlaw mentions a book by Ted Hughes that uses visual aids as a memory trigger to remember poems. Alex thinks that "associated images" might cloud the words, and act as a smoke screen to the reader's interpretation of the

Helen Scott, a marketing secretary, who also attends the makeshift meeting, is a resting actress. She says she was so captured by a poem by Emily Dickinson which Greenlaw had sent round on the e-mail that she went out and bought a collec-

tion of Dickinson's verse, Greenlaw hopes she too will find something here that will enrich her own poetry. She intends to accompany lawyers to court to get an impression of legal words in action.

But don't expect anything no experience of the legal proton soon, or any ditties with lots or even Dina - and Mishcon de

onard Matth



19/OBITUARIES

Robert Soetens

Robert Scetens, violinist: born Montiucon, France 19 July 1897; married 1921 Maud Laury (died 1977); died Paris 22 October 1997.

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The death of the French violinist Robert Sociens breaks one of the last links with the breathtaking flowering of musical life in Paris in the first half of this century.

Soetens was an early prodigy, playing in public for the first time at the age of seven. His father had been one of the first pupils of the great Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaye and, at the age of 11, Robert followed in his father's footsteps, studying with Ysaye for two years before being admitted to the Paris Conservatoire. Soetens' teachers there included the composer they went on a Scandinavian Vincent d'Indy (who swiftly made the young virtuoso the leader of the student orchestra), Camille Chevillard for chamber music, and Lucien Capet, leader of the famous Capet Quartet, for violin.

ss rate. That Jakaka plants was then as the plants was attended the first performance of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring, played at the age of 16 in the premiere of the First Quartet of Darius Milhaud, a fellow student at the Conservatoire; and he remembered seeing Picassos in the gallery windows at 20 francs and Utrillos at a quarter of that price.

In 1915 Soetens left the Conservatoire to enrol in the army; on his return he was booked as leader-soloist of the orchestra of the summer season

went to Cannes with the same astonishment, was the Second September: he died on 23 and North Africa - where he duties, for a season directed by André Messager. It was there that Sociens met the soprano Maud Laury, and they were soon married, though the relationship was short-lived; he never married again.

Sociens next moved to Deauville, again as leadersoloist of a seasonal orchestra, and then to Angers. But he was also now playing regularly in Paris, where through Milhaud he got to know the other members of the group of musicians dubbed "Les Six", particularly Arthur Honegger, Germaine Tailleferre and Francis Poulenc.

In 1925 Soctens gave the first performance of Ravel's Tzigane (in the version for violin and piano), which brought him close to Ravel, and together tour. (At one point Ravel was upset when he accidentally skipped a couple of his lines in his own Sonatine; Soctens consoled him by pointing out that the composer was not in the audience.) Soetens now began to trav-

of travelling virtuoso that was the stuff of his existence for the next 60 years. He went first to Belgium, where one of the most important friendships of his life was born, when he was booked for a recital in Brussels with Sergei Prokofiev. Their mutual respect was sealed in 1932 when Soetens played, with Samuel Dushkin, in the first performance of Prokofiev's Sonata for Two Violins. Prokofiev was so pleased that he said he wanted to "write

something" for Soetens. That

Violin Concerto.

Prokofiev gave the first performance with Soetens in Madrid in December 1935. The two of them then undertook a 40-concert tour in Europe and northern Africa - the first time that Prokofiev, as pianist, had ever shared a platform with another soloist. Soctens was true to this friendship as long as he was able: he continued to play "his" concerto until 1972, when he gave the first performance in South Africa, and in 1983, when he was 85, he performed the Sonata for Two Violins in a concert to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Prokofiev's

had played in the premiere. in 1925, out of the blue, Soctens, then 28, had been offered the post of leader of the Oslo Philharmonic, and his European career was launched. From Oslo he began to play across Scandinavia, and then in Finland, which served as a beachhead from which to begin giving concerts in the Baltic Counties and in Central and el abroad, beginning the career Eastern Europe.

The next distinguished composer to be associated with Sociens in France was Albert Roussel. After his first stay in Norway, Soetens had accepted a summer season at Dieppe: Roussel had a summer house just down the coast, at Varengeville. They worked closely together, Sociens playing in the premiere of the Second Violin Sonata. With Sociens in mind, Roussel had decided to write a Fantaisie for violin and

Soctens played frequently in London in the later 1920s and 1930s and gave a number of broadcasts on the BBC, including the first two British performances of the Prokofiev Second Concerto, under Sir Henry Wood in 1936 and under the composer himself in 1938 (from the Queen's Hall); he also played Mozart under Barbirolli in Hastings and, with the Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Rankl and the Mendelssohn Солсегю.

In 1940, having regained France from Italy just before Mussolini closed the border. death; it was 51 years since he Sociens had intended to come to Britain to fulfil concert engagements, but delays with his visa meant that he missed the last boat out of France. And so, taking a bicycle. Sociens stranged his violins over the back wheel and a suitease between the handlebars and, with Suzanne Roche, his accompanist and companion, he set off to cycle the 350km south to Montlucon, where he had been born (of Belgian parents) and where his ageing mother still lived. He and Roche decided to stay and concertise in free France, returning to occupied Paris in 1942.

At that point Sociens accepted the chance of a tour in Spain, also acting as a sleeping agent for the free French: only when he was there did he realise that he would not be allowed to return to France without official permission from Berlin. orchestra, and wrote to him in He had no choice but to eke out 1937 that he now finally in- a living from what concerts he at Aix-les-Bains, after which he "something", to its recipient's tended to start work on it that could find in Spain. Portugal

played in concerts organised by de Gaulle's sister-in-law to raise money for the Resistance.

After the war, to escape from the chaos of liberated Paris, Sociens and Roche played in Egypt. Palestine, Lebanon and Turkey, making the journey back through Soviet-occupied Bulgaria. Soetens' characteristic restlessness had not abated in middle age: he spent the years 1947-50 touring the length of toured Scotland with Karl Africa, appearing in Britain again in 1952-53 for a tour with the Scottish National Orchestra, and once more in 1957,

He now spent three years (1960-62) giving concerts in South America, another three in Asia, where he taught extensively in Japan, and five in North America, all the while playing concertos with orchestras across Europe. In 1967-68 Sociens taught at Oberlin College in Ohio. With the Bulgarian pianist Minka Roustcheva, his concert partner from 1966 until 1995, Sociens' perpetual touring continued: in his seventies he played in South Africa, the Azores, Mauritius and Iran; and he thought nothing of travelling - on his own to Trondheim, in northern Norway, to give a masterclass two months before his 95th birthday. In 1982 he returned to London to give masterclasses at the Guildhall and the Royal Academy of Music, and while there also gave a number of concerts in London and in Oxford.

He gave his last public concert at the age of 95 - probably the only violinist ever to perform so late in life.



Martin Anderson Soetens: gave his last public concert aged 95

Photograph: Jean-Michel Sabat

Leonard Matthews

Leonard Joseph Matthews, editor and publisher: born London 10 October 1914; married 1944 (marriage dissolved 1947), 1957 Barbara Hayes (one son, one daughter); died Esher, Surrey 9 November 1997.

Halfway through 1962, a weekly news magazine in London appeared with its front page fully devoted to a cartoon. It showed the figure of a man in Napoleonic garb flagged "Napoleon of the Comics". This was Leonard Matthews, the newly created director of Fleetway Publications. A longstanding member of the staff. Matthews had become director in overall editorial command of such weeklies as, Buster, Film Fun, Girls' Crystal, Jack and Jill. Lion, Look and Learn, Playhour, Princess, Tiger and Valiant.

Previously he had worked for an Italian firm which made carpets, and later joined the London department store Whiteley's, where he ran the Whiteley's Dance Band.

The Amalgamated Press had advertised for an editorial assistant, and Matthews, who had a talent for drawing, submitted some of his material. He was fortunate enough to secure



Matthews: Napoleonic

an interview with Monty Haydon, a director of the company, who, impressed with his ability, took him on. The Second World War took

him into the RAF, but he also worked for the RAF at the Air Ministry in Kingsway, where he compiled air-training manuals. Fleetway House was not too far away, so he kept his hand in by doing editorial tasks there. He volunteered to fire-watch on the building, and one occasion firebombs fell when he and his colleague George Allen (a lifelong friend whom he had first met at Whiteley's) were on watch. They scooped up the bombs and

shovelled them over the side. given a large, airy office right neighbour was burned to the

a short film together, but the marriage did not survive. With the end of the war, he resumed his editorial work and in 1957 married Barbara Hayes, an attractive brunette in the nursery papers department. The Amalgamated Press was

taken over by the Mirror Group in 1958, and renamed Fleetway Publications. Matthews began to reorganise his papers, which now included all the boy's titles, the girl's weeklies and the nursery papers. A small man, he was a keen admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte and, like him, not entirely democratically inclined. but his leadership was tempered with a charismatic quality which quashed resentment. Matthews tended to recruit tall

men on to his team. His capacity to enthuse was enormous and infectious, but he made sure that all under his command knew their place. He expected you to agree with him, and indeed, to do his bidding. As one of his editors, I was

Next morning, Fleetway House next to his. Once he called me was intact, but its next-door into his office, and told me of a project he was planning. He asked me to take part in a Towards the end of the war, particular mission for its fur-Matthews married. Pat, his wife, therance. I could not, in all conhad some show-business con-science, oblige him, and gave nection, and they appeared in him a definite, and, I hope.

> His reaction was, I suppose, to be expected. He nodded gently, said he understood my point of view, and I departed. Next day, Colin Thomas, Matthews's "adjutant", dropped in see me. "Oh, a small thing. Leonard wants to make a few changes in the office locations, so we'll have to move you, old man." I then went down to inspect my "new" office. It was a quarter of the size of the old one, overlooked the fireescape at the back of the building, and had one tiny window. I had been punished.

Changes occurred at Fleetway House. The Hulton publications ~ Eagle, Girl and Robin - fell within the Matthews orbit, after being taken over by the Mirror Group, which in turn, incorporating Odham's. Newnes and other companies, became IPC, the International Publishing Corporation. Matthews. strong personality as he was, felt eventually that he had no choice take early retirement, in any

He did not, of course, actu-

ally retire. Within a month or

so, he had set up his own publishing and production company, Martspress, accompanied by a few of his old staff. One of his first moves was to buy up some old titles, among them Men Only, a mildly saucy pocketsized monthly issued by Newnes, Matthews appointed as its editor Tony Power, who had edited children's comics at Fleetway House. Men Only had been slowly fading, and its demise seemed imminent. Power, out for an evening, met Paul Raymond, who ran nightclubs. The outcome was that Matthews sold the title to Raymond, who turned Men Only. still with Power as editor, into

a hugely successful publication. Matthews devoted his attention to juvenile publishing. this time as a packager, producing a complete magazine or book for any publisher who required it. First among such publications was Once Upon a Time, issued by City Magazines. With the passage of time,

Matthews's operations lessened. His company continued production, mostly with books

LAW REPORT: 5 DECEMBER 1997

but to leave the company. He for children, with the able as- to have very tall men as minions, would shortly have been able to sistance of Elizabeth Flower. his dashing around at his beck and

torial Director (Juveniles) at the old Fleetway Press (then the biggest fiction factory in the world), he wrenched me out of the comfy but terminally boring editor's chair of a glossy county mag (all balls, blooming Soroptimists and baying drunks in DJs) in Stoke-on-Trent to the sub's seat on Lion ("King of Story-Papers!") in swingin' London.

My one boast on joining Fleetway was that I was the first bearded employee ever to be taken on by Leonard, a notorious detester of beards -- who. only weeks later, suddenly sprouted a facial growth of his own. This was not because in some bizarre and deeply psychological way he fancied me (Leonard's sexual arrangement, both domestic and extracurricular, were creative, but not that creative), merely that, in his Napoleonic way, he wished to demonstrate he could do

anything his underlines did. That was Leonard all over.

Necessity cannot justify detention of mental patient

former secretary at Fleetway call although, like all monumental egocentrics, he was convinced everyone was plotting against him. Thus life as a min-Leonard Matthews did me a ion, however tall, could be good turn, writes Jack Adrian. nasty, brutish and short. Ruth-Thirty-old years ago, as Edi-lessness was an essential part of excellence, churning out anhis psyche. Having, through chronic overwork and emotional pressure, turned one of

his editorial apparatchiks into an alcoholic, he fired him - for being an alcoholic. A man more at ease with legend than reality, Leonard was convinced that vicious thugs such as Dick Turpin, Claude Duval and Rob Roy were in fact

paragons of high-minded virtue and benevolence. This was thanks to the swashbucklers he'd read as a boy: Stanley Weyman, Rafael Sabatini, Harrison Ainsworth, as well as all the chean story-papers lauding the exploits of other arrant scoundrels. But he turned this obsession to good effect during the 1940s and 1950s in the comics and story-papers he edited and was associated with, dragooning some of the finest illustrators of the day. both British and European (C.L. Doughty. Steven Chap-

A cocky little bantam, he liked Geoffrey Campion, Arturo del

perb historical picture-strips about Turoin, the Three Musketeers and a host of other characters in weekly serial form, or as beautiful one-off 64-page pictorial "novels". Leonard was a packager par

Castillo et al), into drawing su-

thologies and annuals and yearbooks, then changing around the contents and churning them out again. Like all despots he could shift into purblind mode. Great events - with which he had no possible connection - at times passed him by.

In the late 1970s, when George Lucas's Star Wars was vast and you had to be a New Guinea caveman not to know the names Han Solo, Luke Skywalker and all, he buttonholed me to write some stories for an "exciting new project" he was working up for W.H. Smith. It was science fiction. "I've got a very good title," he said. "I'm surprised no one's used it before Star Wars'."

I said I thought George Lucas might not be too impressed. to have that galaxy-famous title pinched. There was a puzzled silence on the phone. "Who's George Lucas?" said

Leonard. He bad, nevertheless, a formidable editorial talent.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

EDLINGTON: Brian. Managing di-rector of J.B. Edlington & Co Ltd. Gainsborough, Lines. Suddenly, on 1 December 1997, at Lincoln County Hospital, aged 69 years. Loving hus-band of Susan and much-loved father of Sara and Paul John, grandfather of Elizabeth Funeral Service at Beck-ingham Church on Monday 8 Dember at 11.30am, followed by coment at Morton Cemetery. Famly flowers only, donations to Beck-ingliam Church Roof Appeal. Enquiries to Cliff Bradley Funeral Di-metor, Gainsborough, telephone 01427 810619.

Helen Soul - The nts for Gazette BIKTHS. CTCIAIY Who also dise MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births Adoptions, Marriages, Dearhs, Memo-rial pervious, Wadding amireusanes, in Memory should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, Consta Square, Cantry Wharf, Lordon E14 5D1. red twa part to English son which Greenless Lordon E14 5DL, zelephoned to 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 200) or faced to 0171-293 2010. und on the description and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT Gitra). OTHER Gazette amouncein of Dickilled and ent) (better, functions, Forthcom-g-marriages, Marriages) must be business in writing (or found) and are driving (16 a line, VAT extra. They Greenian by the name

. Set an implement Changing of the Guard
The Heinshold Caraly Mounted Regiment
month the Queen's Life Guard at Horse
canda. Hang F Company Scots Guards
mounts the Queen's Geard, at Buckingham
Palea, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots
Sunds. But don't wind an Current Cr. 111 minute De Course Dien and Vote

Birthdays Mr John Baker, chairman, Nation-

al Power, 60; Lady Balfour of Burleigh (Janet Bruce), editor, writer and consultant, 52; Mr José Carreras, operatic tenor, 50; Lord Chalfont, chairman, Marlborough Stirling Group, 78; Miss Lucie Clayton, counder of the model and secretarial agency, 69; Sir William Downward, former Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, 85; Lord Dubs, former MP 65: Mr Tom Graham MP 53: Mr John Home Robertson MP, 49; The Earl of Longford, writer and former minister, 92; Mr Terry Maher, chair-man, Maher Booksellers, 62; Mr Sheridan Morley, writer, biographer and broadcaster, 56: Lord Napier and Ettrick, private secretary to Princess Margaret, 67; Lord Nathan, former Chairman, Royal Society of Arts, 75; Mr Malcolm Russell, musician, 61; Mr Jeremy Sandford, author, 63; Mr Harold Sebag-Montefiore, barrister, 73; Mr Bill Skitt, Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 56; Dame Mary Smieton, former senior civil servant, 95; Mr Adam Thorpe, poet, 41; Mr Don Touhig MP, 50.

Anniversaries Births: Christina Georgina Rosser-ti, poet, 1830; Admiral John Rushworth Jellicoe, first Earl Jellicoe, commander of the Fleet at Jutland, 1859; Fritz Lang, film director, 1890; Walter (Walt) Elias Disney, creator of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, 1901; Otto Preminger, film director, 1901, One Freminger, in interest, 1906. Deaths: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, 1791; Sir Henry Tate, sugar refiner and philanthropist, 1899; Jan Kubelik, violinist, 1940. On this day: the brig Mary Ce-

lesse was found abandoned in the At-

lantic, 1872; under the 21st Amendment, prohibition was repealed in the United States, 1933; Britain's first motorway opened, a bypass around Preston, 1958; the United Kingdom withdrew from membership of Unesco. 1985. Today is the Feast Day of St Birinus, St Christian, St Crispina, St John Almond, St Justinian or lestin. St Nicetius of Trier. St Sabas and St Sigiramnus or Cyran.

Dinners **HM** Government

Mr George Robertson MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was host at a dinner given yesterday at Admiral ty House, Whitehall, London SW1 honour of Mr William Cohen, Sec retary for Defense of the United States of America.

Lectures

National Gallery: Gabriele Finaldi, "Mengs (1): The All Souls Noli Me Tangere", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Ann Eatwell, "Silver for Tea, Coffee and Chocolate", 2.30pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin Pillinger, "Hairy Stars", Ipm.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.38pm. United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-2022263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1863. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026. A person suffering from a mental disorder may only be detained in hospital for treatment for that disorder either with his consent or under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983, and not under the common law doctrine of necessity. Riv Bournewood Community and

Mental Health Trust, ex parte L. Court of Appeal (Lord VVcoll, Master of the Polis, Lord Justice Philips and Lord Justice Chadwolin 2 December 1997

The Court of Appeal allowed the applicant's appeal against the decision of Mr Justice Owen (Case Summaries, 3 November 1997), who dismissed his application for judicial review of the decision of the **Bournewood Community and** Mental Health NHS Trust to detain him on 22 July 1997 and inst.

to continue that detention.

be contacted so the care worksponsibility for him for many years had been called. She had recommended that he should be taken to the hospi-Unit. Whilst there he had become increasingly agitated and, under a doctor's supervision. had been taken to the mental health behavioural unit. He had remained at the hospital ever

Richard Gordon QC and Paul Howen (Scott-Monertell Harbour & Smclair) for the applicant. John Grace QC (Bencheroft Stanleys) for the

The applicant, a 48-year-old Lord Woolf MR, handing autistic man who was unable to down the judgment of the speak, had been a long-term - court, said that for the purposes resident at a hospital run by the of the appeal the applicant had was "free to leave" the hospi-

trust. In March 1994 he had been regarded as being unable tal. It was plain that, had he the applicant for treatment gone to live with a couple who to express either consent or dis-attempted to do so, those in for mental disorder without his were his carers. They regard-sent to detention. The trust's charge of him would not have consent and without the fored him as one of the family. On consultant psychiatrist had tak-22 July 1997, while at a day cen- en the view that because the tre, the applicant had become applicant had been "quite comagitated. His carers could not pliant" on 22 July and had "not attempted to run away", he er who had had overall re- could be admitted to the hospital as an informal patient and need not be detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. Had he resisted admission, howevtal's Accident and Emergency er, she would certainly have detained him under the Act. being firmly of the view that he required in-patient treatment.

The trust denied that the applicant had been detained; he had simply not chosen to leave the hospital. However, a person was detained in law if those who had control over the premises where he was had the ntention that he should not be permitted to leave, and had the ability to prevent him from leaving. That was the applicant's position. The judge had been wrong to conclude that he

permitted it.

man, H.M. Brock, Eric Parker,

The alternative contention of the trust was that if the applicant were detained, such detention was not unlawful because they could rely on the common law doctine of necessity to justify giving treatment to the applicant in accordance with his own best

It was clear from the authorities that the right of a hospital to detain a patient for treatment for mental disorder was to be found in, and only in, the 1983 Act, whose provisions applied to the exclusion of the common law principle of necessity. The trust contended that section 131 of the Act entitled them to admit the applicant as an "informal patient", but that section addressed the position of a patient who was admitted and treated with consent. The trust had admitted and detained

malities required by the Act. It followed that they had acted unlawfully.

It should be made clear that in the present case the court had been concerned with the admission and detention in hospital of a patient for treatment for mental disorder. Nothing in the judgment should be taken as applicable to the situation where a mentally impaired person was subjected to restraints amounting to detention which were imposed simply to prevent him from sustaining harm.

A troubling feature of the appeal was that the trust was not alone in misinterpreting the effect of the Act. Apparently there could be many patients. especially those suffering from dementia, who were in the same position as the applicant. The current practice could not justify a disregard of the Act. – Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Would you? Would you promise to be "faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors. according to law"? Many readers of this newspaper would. Some have, as naturalised citizens, Scouts or Guides. But many would not. Does that make them ineligible to sit in Parliament?

Of course not. Yet that is what we require our MPs to say, every one of them, before they can sit on the green benches and do their bit for representative democracy. The idea that people who want Britain to have an elected head of state must be barred from the House of Commons is antique. It is preposterous that MPs should not be permitted to believe openly in a constitutional monarchy in which the monarch is merely titular head of state. Should republicanism, indeed, disqualify a citizen from being a Member of the House? When examined closely, the idea of swearing loyalty to the person of the monarch and her heirs is so offensive - even with that historically rather important rider, "according to law"

- that there is a strong case for asserting that anyone capable of mouthing such hypocritical tosh ought to be disbarred automatically from being an MP.

That does not, of course, mean that the opposite is always true. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness should not be allowed to use the facilities of the House of Commons simply because they refuse to swear the oath of allegiance. They should be allowed to do so because they have disavowed the use of violence and have expressed a desire to take part in a democratic dialogue about the future of Northern Ireland.

So Betty Boothroyd was wrong to send the Sinn Fein MPs away vesterday with their crude piece of agitprop intact. She was wrong on several counts. First, because the oath of allegiance is the wrong test to administer. Most democratic assemblies require their members to declare some kind of loyalty to their nation, which must always present problems to those who stand on a democratic platform of secession for a part of it. The Scottish National Party and Plaid

Cymru get round that by saying they would be happy to have the Queen as head of state of their independent country. But it is different for the Irish, as would be revealed by even the most cursory knowledge of Irish history, and the part played in it by oaths of allegiance.

As Miss Boothroyd pointed out, the oath of allegiance is not a matter for her. The Commons would have to amend the Parliamentary Oaths Act 1866 in order to change it. It was amended once, in 1885, to allow Charles Bradlaugh to sit. As an atheist, he refused to "swear by Almighty God" that he would be loval to Queen Victoria, and his constituents in Northampton forced a change in the law by returning him in four successive by-elections. As a result, many MPs today "solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm" that they will be loyal to Victoria's successor.

Yesterday, the Speaker claimed to be bound by the law as it now stands - in which case she should disqualify at least one MP who did not deliver the form of words re-

quired by the Act. But in any case the Sinn Fein MPs were not asking to take their seats in the Commons. They were merely asking for access to the Palace of Westminster. When she refused them access just after the general election. Miss Boothroyd told the House that the 1866 Act prevented MPs who refused to swear or affirm from taking their seats. In 1924, she said, the Speaker had ruled that such MPs could not be paid salary or expenses. She went on: "Making use of the power vested in the Office of the Speaker to control the accommodation and services in the Commons parts of the Palace of Westminster and the precincts, I have decided to extend these restrictions." She then listed the facilities that would be denied Sinn Fein, including offices, passes, room booking and library services.

For her to pretend to have no choice in the matter, then, is wrong and foolish. This is not a question only of who should and should not be allowed to sit in the Commons, but of advancing the cause of peace in North-

If she had granted Sinn Fein access to the Commons, it would have thrown the burden of responsibility on to the shoulders of Mr Adams. Every time symbolic barriers are removed to Sinn Fein's inclusion in democratic politics, the less Mr Adams can use the rhetoric of grievance and discrimination with his own tribe. The Prime Minister seems to understand this, and should be praised for meeting Mr Adams in Downing Street

Witical battle

hary is sure to

But if the oath itself were changed to a promise to serve the people and pursue "liberty and justice for all" (a phrase from the American pledge of allegiance), then that would really put pressure on the deep-rooted Irish republican tradition of abstentionism. Barristers and police officers in Northern Ireland have dropped the pledge to the Queen: why not MPs? A form of words should not be used which excludes MPs whose democratic credentials are good enough for the Mitchell Commission, and which forces many others to stand up for what we know they don't believe.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

BSE inquiry

Sir: A public inquiry into the BSE disaster is on the verge of being announced. As the parents of Stephen Churchill, the first and, as yet, youngest death from human BSE (new variant CJD) we take this opportunity to remind those making the decisions that the inquiry must be held by a judge, as it is imperative that it should have the right to subpoena both people and documents, and the judge must have the authority to inquire into any matter that he sees fit, in order to seek the truth about what has happened.

Whilst we are but one family we speak on behalf of all the families touched by this tragedy. Today we grieve for 23 deaths but others are being nursed as we write. To have the right quality of inquiry is essential otherwise we the families, the nation and Europe will only see a lower level of inquiry as being vet another cover-up, perpetuating what went before under the Conservative government.

truth. We do not wish for a scapegoat from today's administration but for the real guilty parties to be brought to book. In addition we must all learn from the mistakes made so that a tragedy of this magnitude never happens again. DAVID CHURCHILL DOROTHY CHURCHILL

Devices, Wiltshire

Royal Opera House

Sir: Tonight (3 December) the Royal Ballet represents the United Kingdom at the festivities marking the reopening of the Teatro Real in Madrid. From Friday the Royal Opera contributes to the Year of Opera and Music Theatre in East Anglia with performances of Britten's Paul Buryan. Both events represent the essence. quality and range of the Royal Opera House and its performing companies.

That Mary Allen, our chief executive since September, should be so vilified in today's select committee report scorns the efforts and achievements of the entire organisation during this difficult period of transition. Under Ms Allen's leadership, we are facing up to our problems, restructuring management and financial systems, and developing economically viable artistic plan that will en-

able us to return to Covent Gar- Director of the Royal Opera den with a programme that does justice to our redeveloped

That our development continues on time and on budget, while our fundraising has been more successful than any other comparable capital campaign, demonstrates the commitment of very many people to achieving our goals. We will do this best through our own endeavours, by strong management and leadership. We could have no better champion of our cause than Ms Allen, who has our unreserved

support. Sir ANTHONY DOWELL Director of the Royal Ballet KEITH COOPER Director of Sales and Marketing RICHARD HALL Director of Finance JOHN HARRISON Technical Director MIKE MORRIS Director of Personnel NICHOLAS PAYNE

PHYLLIDA RITTER Director of the Friends of Covent Garden ANTHONY RUSSELL-ROBERTS

> Royal Ballet JOHN SEEKINGS Development Director MALCOLM WARNE HOLLAND Orchestra Director Royal Opera House London WC2

University fees

Sir: While you rightly remind your readers of the reasons why we have had to reform university funding and the fairness which is built into our proposals, you suggest that we have failed to inform potential students properly (leader, 3 December). This is not the case.

I have been ready to discuss them and write about them at every opportunity. While there was some controversy in August

over gap year students - which we speedily resolved in their favour - it is absurd to suggest that we have been failing to put forward both the arguments and the nature of the new Administrative Director of the scheme.

We have already issued over half a million leaflets to sixth forms and further education colleges. We have established a free helpline - 0800 731 9133 – and a website –

info@dfce.gov.uk. We have provided schools and colleges with posters highlighting the helpline number and we have taken out prominent newspaper and radio advertisements.

Of course there are difficulties in tackling misinformation when a new system is introduced, and given the previous government's unwillingness to tackle the university funding crisis there were bound to be. But students and universities are already seeing the benefits of change, with an extra £165m for next year to improve standards and access.

This will allow us to double access funds, helping part-timers in particular, to exempt postgraduate teaching students from course fees and to provide an extra £250 hardship loan to those who need it.

DAVID BLUNKETT Secretary of State for Education and Employment House of Commons London SW1

Sir: Thank you for your praise in your leader on student tuition fees. But contrary to your implication, it is not the intention of the National Union of Students to frighten would-be stueducation to make a point in our campaign; the evidence is clear that the prospect of paying university tuition fees is killing ambition among poten-

tial students. Parents will not be relieved of their contribution towards their offspring's living costs. Access to part of the mainte-

means-tested, so better off families will be denied the cheaper state loans.

SAINT WINNIE

OF SOWETO

The tuition fee is the real deterrent. This must be paid up front by those parents assessed to pay all or part of it, and contrary to the repeated assertions by backbench Labour MPs in the media, there will not be a loan for the tuition fee. The Government have made this clear to us and clear to sixth formers and other would-be students in their leaflets, letters and other promotional materials, but the message has not been given to their own representatives, prolonging the condents away from higher fusion over the terrible plan for

tuition fees. It is time for the Government to go back to the drawing board. There is no point inventing a new system of university funding unless you can persuade people to study. DOUGLAS TRAINER

National President National Union of Students

Green Japan

Sir You describe Japan as "a wasteful country, with a poor record on recycling" ("Japan fears a bumpy ride on road to climate deal", 1 December). All evidence here points to the con-

At railway stations there are separate rubbish bins for newspapers, cans and bottles. Similarly at offices and in the Japanese home, rubbish must be separated into categories. otherwise it will not be taken away. It is common here for neighbours to search through offending rubbish in order to find an envelope with the address of the depositor on, in order to return it.

There are recycling facilities at supermarkets for items such as milk cartons (which must first be washed and cut and laid flat. I'm not kidding.) There are also special rubbish collection days for items such as batteries and polystyrene.

PETER JUETT Saitama, Japan

Sir: Nicholas Schoon is right to ask what difference it will make to have information on air pollution made more widely available ("Appliance of science to smog alerts", 20 November). The answer, of course, is that those who suffer ill-health because of traffic fumes, up to 15 million in the UK, will now know when to stay as prisoners in their own homes.

Michael Meacher may take pride in a reporting system that leads the world, but the desperate need now is not for information on how poisonous the air is, but for clean air itself. The Government must commit itself to reducing pollution by tackling the causes of pollution, in particular traffic. ANDY SPRING Enfield.

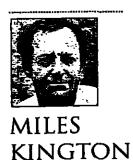
Middlesex

After the hunt

Sir: I think it is absolutely right and proper that an MP should put a Bill through Parliament outlawing the premeditated, conscious and appalling abuse of helpless animals perpetrated for the relish of an unenlightened section of the population. I look forward to the introduction of the Cruelty to Animals (Battery Farming) Act. ALAN BURLES

oto the Iron C

Ah, the thrill of the chase, the trail of the fox, the cars moving in for the final kill ...



"Did you know that most foxes are killed not by fox-hunting or shooting, but by being run over on the road? That more foxes are run over than are culled by all other methods put together? Yes, fox-motoring is by far the best proven method of cutting down on fox numbers! And yet Parliament is even now trying to make things more difficult for us, maybe even kill the sport!"

The speaker is Bernie Purdue, who lives in Kent and has been running over foxes almost as long as he can remember. He learnt to enjoy the sport first with the hunting group known as the Faversham Shoppers, but after going out fox-motoring round about the county with different outfits, he now goes motoring illegal, are they?

out with the London-Kent hunting group known popularly as the M25 Late Late Crowd.

"We go out four or five times a week, into London in the morning and back again in the evening. The evening is the best time for fox-motoring. Well, obviously, because that's when the fox is out. I mean, you can't get a fox if he's in his hole. can you? So we don't get many foxes in the mornings. Only reason we go out in the mornings, really, is so that we can come back in the evening. That's when the fun starts. And now they're trying to take it away

from us. Which particular measure is he thinking of? After all, they're not trying to make fox-

"All but, mate, all but. They're cutting back the roadbuilding programme. They're trying to cut back on the number of cars. They're trying to cut back on the speed of cars. Worst of all, they're trying to get

public transport better!"

What's wrong with that? "What's wrong with improving public transport? Oh, come on! When did you last hear of a bus running over a fox? They're not up to it! Far too slow and unwieldy. It's only cars that can do it. But everything is being stacked against us. I mean, the new government is already urging us to slow down for Christmas. How can we get a fox if we slow down? They are telling us we can't have any more roads.

How can you lure more foxes out if there aren't the roads to lure them on to?

Bernie Purdue, as he speaks, is slowly getting into what he will be wearing for his run home tonight. He'll be putting on a nondescript coat, trainers, anonymous shirt and shabby leather gloves. It's not

very ... well, glamorous, is it? "And that's another thing people are always expecting fox-motorists to be all posh and stuck-up, wearing sheepskin jackets and smart caps, maybe even chauffeur-driven with smoky windows to keep out the gaze of the masses ...! Well, it's not like that! You'll find a real cross-section of the public out there running over foxes! Rich and poor, posh and humble.

That's the glory of fox-motoring! It appeals to everyone, high or low. And if they try and wipe us out, it'll be a whole way of life gone. Do you know that the

first recorded fox to be run over

was in 1903, in Beckenham?

How are we going to celebrate the centenary if people go on cracking down on the poor old motorist? We'll be reduced to getting the occasional hedgehog at this rate. And have you ever thought of the jobs that would be lost, all the garage and servicing and petrol-filling and bodywork repair jobs? All the simple craftsmen who depend on fox-motoring ...?"

Yes, but hold on a minute. Surely fox-motoring is a very haphazard way of eliminating foxes? And what has he got

against foxes anyway?

BERNARD JUBY

PRIESTLEY

Minimum wage

Sir: Ian McCartney, Minister of

State at the Department of

Trade and Industry, is not exactly

correct when he states (Letters,

1 December) that "all sectors of

business also support the prin-

nesses are either micro (less than

10 employees) or small (less than

50) and some 97 per cent em-

ploy fewer than 20. While these

may support a reasonable wage

negotiated at local level, many

worry that if a statutory, national,

minimum wage is set too high

then many will have to shed staff.

imum wage applies only to in-

dustry and is set so low that

employers pay it anyway. Despite

promises to help small busi-

nesses, we are still to be made

criminals, fined and penalised.

Trade and Industry Policy Unit

Federation of Small Businesses

The much-vaunted US min-

The bulk of Britain's busi-

ciple of a minimum wage".

"What have I got against ...? You must be joking! Foxes are the most incredibly destructive animal. They cause the most awful damage! Paw marks all over the bodywork, scratches and bite marks on the paintwork, blood all over the place after a kill, dented panels ...

Yes, but many a motorist could go for years without even seeing a fox. So what's the

"It's the sport of it," says Bernie simply. "It's the exhilaration of getting out there on the open road, headlights blazing, knowing that any moment a fox might run across the road and under your wheels ...'

Might you not also get a stoat or rabbit or pheasant?

"Yes, you might," says Bernie, vsibly brightening. "Or with luck you might even get a cyclist."

London SW11

They're not legitimate game, surely? Cyclists are human, aren't they?

"Matter of opinion," says Bernie, "Anyway, all I'm saying is that if you've been out for a spin and even if you haven't hit anything, you still come back feeling on top of the world. It's a tremendous feeling. You'll never know what it's like if you don't do it. Want to come for a spin? Light's fading, wildlife is coming out - we might get something ...

I made an excuse and went back to London by train.

A political battle that the military is sure to win



DONALD **MACINTYRE** DEFENCE **EXPENDITURE**

Not long after the election George Robertson, Secretary for Defence, came to a Cabinet committee meeting and chirpily told his colleagues he had some good news to impart. The German government had now decided to give the Eurofighter project the goahead. His announcement failed to have the desired effect on at least one of his colleagues. Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who reacted by rolling his eyes heavenwards, rather as he had done a few days earlier when given the same information by Theo Waigel, the German finance minister.

Given that Eurofighter will gobble up £16bn over 30 years, Mr Brown's evident lack of enthusiasm is pretty understandable. It also presages what could yet prove to be one of the big looming internal conflicts of the current Parliament: whether or not the defence budget can yield up some of the monev which is needed to fulfil the pledges to spend more on health and education. Ask almost any minister where this money will come from and they mention, almost mechanically, social security and defence. These are, after all, the biggest budgets. Since part of the thrust of welfare reform is to reduce social security spending, the DSS is a natural candidate for cuts. But expectations of defence also yielding up some of its treasures are also high. The unlilateralist tendency in the Labour Party is disappearing fast. But there are quite a lot of impeccably New Labour MPs who believe there is plenty of peace dividend still to come.

Savings in the defence budget are an issue tailor-made for Gordon Brown. There are not many issues in which it can be leftwing to cut public expenditure. Defence, by contrast, has the potential to be the issue over which Brown the true Labour radical. and Brown the Iron Chancellor most perfectly converge. The Treasury has anyway long been deeply sceptical of the defence budget. Norman Lamont as chancellor got so fed up with the arguments deployed in favour of the arms bill, that he once wrote a Cabinet minute daring to question the point of Britain's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, Brown, with a highly developed sense of Britain's international leadership role, isn't remotely of that cast of mind. But he has been ruthless over the past few weeks in exposing elements of expenditure that the Ministry of Defence would no doubt rather prefer to keep from Treasury eyes.

But MPs expecting deep cuts in defence should not get their hopes up too high. It isn't generally realised quite how deep were the cuts made by the Tories, largely because it is not in the Tories' nature to take credit for such a thing. Since the mid-1980s defence spending has been reduced by 29 per cent some other spending ministers hope and ex-- leaving its share of GDP at 3.5 per cent, pect it to be.

the lowest level since the 1930s. Since 1990, armed forces levels, despite the current presence in Bosnia and Northern Ireland, have been reduced from 315, 000 to 215,000. These figures are important for two reasons. First, they dramatise the dangers of further cuts. The Treasury is quite right to point out, as it has been doing, that the switch of £160m from Defence to Health this autumn passed without a murmur. If the Labour Party of the early or mid-1980s had promised anything similar, it would have been regarded as yet another proof of its softness on defence. But the Tories would nevertheless be merciless in exploiting the still raw memories of Labour's unilateralist past if the Goverument continued cutting at anything like the rate of the previous one.

Secondly, and this may illustrate a deeper truth, Labour is not naturally the defence cutting party. Margaret Thatcher's reputation as the Iron Lady was in fact built on the decision of her Labour predecessor, James Callaghan, to raise in the late 1970s defence spending by 3 per cent a year - a growth sustained until she herself sanctioned reversal of that trend in around 1985. Before the election Tony Blair promised several people that Labour was the party radically to reform the welfare state because Labour had brought it into being. In the same way, it may be that the Tories can cut defence in a way that Labour can't.

But this has to do with more than just mere electoral politics. It has equally to do with Blair's own vision of Britain's role in the world, expressed most forcibly in the Mansion House speech. This was the most unequivocal statement yet of his view that "we need strong defence, not just to defend our country, but for British influence abroad ... we must not reduce our capability to exercise a role on the international stage." The composition of the Ministry of Defence is, I think, no accident. Three of the ministers, Lord Gilbert, John Spellar and Robertson himself, are bastions of the old Labour right, veterans of the anti-unlilateralist struggles of the 1980s. It's true that the armed forces minister John Reid has different political antecedents; but as a close ally of Neil Kinnock in the early 1980s he worked hard to edge Labour's defence policy back to the political mainstream. He also happens to believe strongly in a role for the armed forces which goes well beyond readiness for the post-Cold War threats, such as Iraq, and into that of peacekeeping and engagement which may not be confined to the direct promotion of British interests.

There will no doubt be big changes as a result of both the Strategic Defence Review and the parallel. Treasury-led comprehensive spending review of defence. There will be new efficiencies; including, no doubt, an end to the triplication of many bureaucrats and military staff serving each of the three services. I would not bet on the Government buying all of the 232 Eurofighter aircraft to which they are committed. More tanks will be mothballed on the European front than the Army would like. But some of those who call most vociferously for cuts are also, as the left-wing MP Andrew McKinley pointed out in a Commons defence debate last month, those who will say fastest that something must be done if war breaks out again in Bosnia. There will be a battle within the Cabinet, especially if welfare reform fails to yield the social security cuts hoped for it. There may be some modest savings to be used for health and education. But defence is unlikely to prove the pot of gold that

There's no escape from the world of the global commercial



SUZANNE MOORE CELEBRITY ADVERTISING

It is the year 2012. There is a Teletubbies revival and Baby Spice has just taken over as the new landlady of the Queen Vic Internet Salon in EastEnders. Tony Blair is still everywhere. He may no longer be Prime Minister but he appears regularly on our TV screens advertising a new chain of restaurants, Planet Politics. Having already done rather well out of endorsing private health care plans, he, Bill Clinton and Lionel Jospin have got together a nice little franchise in which you can eat turkey burgers - the last remaining cow was publicly executed several years ago amidst a display of digitally mastered world leaders.

Others of his ex-ministers are also cashing in. There is Lady Mowlam in another wacky Guinness commercial and Peter Mandelson flogging the very latest surveillance technology, Harriet Harman has endorsed the latest contraceptive device (a form of electronic tagging), while Jack Straw has been reduced to voice-overs for personal alarms. No one begrudges them the money though; there is a feeling among the advertising industry that celebrity endorsements are no longer where it's at. There are just so many damn celebrities selling so many damn products that the public has become sceptical. Market research shows that the only celebrities the public trusts are the ones who refuse to advertise dogfood, and since Dennis Skinner has cornered that market, that leaves hardly anyone.

Actually this future is not so far off. Nigel Lawson, Ken Livestone, Denis Healey, Pergie, George Bush and Henry Kissinger, among others, have all lent their name to one ad campaign or another. Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, is the latest to succumb to the lure of filthy lucre. He has just shot a television commercial for Pizza Hut for which it is reported that he was paid close to a \$1m.

In the ad he arrives at Pizza Hut by limousine and the other diners notice him. One pipes up, "Because of him, we have economic confusion." A

younger man disagrees, saying, "Because of him we have great opportunity." Some argument takes place until an older woman says, "Because of him we have things like Pizza Hut." Everyone rises and give a standing ovation to Mr Gorbachev, holding their pizza slices aloft in tribute. The former leader does not actually eat any pizza but smiles benignly as his granddaughter tucks in.

There are no plans to show the advert in Russia, which is just as well as Gorbachev is extremely unpopular there. The ad has already been ridiculed by the Russian press; but since leaving office, Gorbachev has done a number of odd jobs. He has been a newspaper columnist, after-dinner speaker and appeared in a Wim Wenders film talking about Dostoevsky. He has also made another ad, for Apple computers in Germany. Yet he realises that this Pizza Hut commercial is a new step. He had previously considered it "unsuitable" for someone of his standing. But as Marx didn't say: in the ideological battle between capitalism and communism, fast food will always

Does buying up "integrity" in the form of endorsements from ex-politicians really work? Gorby gets his dosh and Pizza Hut gets an ad that people will talk about for a week or so; but will it make us buy more pizza, which is what it is all in aid of?

vertising a rather tacky food chain has novelty value, but surely in some way it devalues the reputation of that leader. In our hearts we know that politics and commerce are not two mutually exclusive areas, but much of the time we like to pretend that they are. The idea that all politicians can be bought, one that we are unfortunately familiar with, eventually contributes to our lack of respect for them. The sight of Fergie desperately slurping cranberry juice is not a pretty one, yet Fergie really

However, even non-politicians have to be careful here. The Spice Girls have made the mistake of lending their names to so many products that their endorsement has become meaningless - cola, crisps, body spay. You name it they have overkilled it. The result is that their own branding has suf-

While it may be easy to criticise particular individuals for selling out to the ad industry, the real story in advertising is not about celebrities as products but about the way advertising now forms the environment in which we live. The refusal of the Government to ban tobacco advertising was in part an admission that it could not effectively enforce such a ban.

The current battle between Adidas and Nike about who is

to be most visible during the To see a former world leader ad-1998 World Cup finals involves huge sums of money - Adidas has paid £20m to be one of the official sponsors of the tournament - as well as complicated strategies to ambush each other's ad campaigns. As it is, an estimated 500 million people will watch the games, and it will only take a small percentage of them to go out and buy these trainers for either company to boom. Even those who don't buy them will have great brand recognition. Indeed this kind of sponsorship gives these companies has nothing to lose in the credsuch sophisticated and ubiquitous product placement that ibility stakes.

Nike was happy to pay £250m over 10 years to sponsor Brazil. Much of leisure, whether it involves sports or computing, takes place in environments that are totally monopolised by huge companies - from Nike to Pepsi to Microsoft - that are becoming virtually impossible to regulate. This is part of what globalisation means. There is little in the culture that cannot be used to sell to us. One by one, every "classic" pop song is used up, whatever the reputation of

its creators. Thus the Velvet Un-

derground can sell us tyres. Lou Reed the BBC and Janis Joplin's ironic ditty "Oh lord wont you buy me a Mercedes Benz" is used without a trace of irony to sell us Mercedes Benz.

All of this means that the existence of a space outside of adoutside of and smaller. When everything and everyone becomes pure product to help shift other product, then maintaining brand recognition takes up more and more time, space and money. The stimulation of consumer desire is a massive operation.

In such a context, ex-world leaders like Gorby, selling their souls for a slice from the big pizza, are actually small fry, because when everyone and everything is for sale, because when it is assumed that ultimately every one has their price, we are all cheapened. It is not the ads that are beamed into our living rooms that we need to worry about as much as the fact that the backdrop of much of our lives is now little but an advertising hoarding. Gorby should have just said no. The rest of us

don't have much choice.

NEW FROM PENTAX: OUR SMALLEST



Pizza salesman: a foretaste of Mikhail Gorbachev's new career in advertising

Memo to the Iron Chancellor: don't pick fights you can't win



RUPERT CORNWELL THE EUROPEAN **PRESIDENCY**

This may not be the decent moment to do so, but cast your mind back to the last time Britain held the Presidency of the European Union, five long years ago. This morning, Tony Blair ushers in our six-month term with some New Labour fun and games at Waterloo Station - a rousing speech, flashing videos and further national rebranding, all in the presence of dignitaries disgorged from a Eurostar train, symbol of our unbreakable ties with the lands beyond the Channel.

In fact of course we don't start the job until January 1, but custom now dictates that the incoming Presidency rings the celebratory bells a few weeks early. And this time they will have a distinctly sweeter chime. Labour after all has placed itself squarely "at the heart of Europe" and broken the selfdefeating cycle of Tory Euro-

Or has it? Yes, there are new players, and the mood music has changed almost beyond recognition. But consider, uneasily, a couple of parallels between today and the second half of 1992. Then as now, a modest whiff of Europhilia was abroad in the land. The Maastricht treaty on European union had just been signed and John Major had secured his opt-out from the Social Chapter, sup-

posedly saving Britain from creeping Euro-socialism. The federal beast, it had been proved, could be tamed. Maybe Europe wasn't so bad after all. We all know what happened

First Denmark rejected the Maastricht Treaty. Then that psychological setback was dwarfed by the humiliation of Black Wednesday, as the pound crashed out of the ERM. This time of course, there's no risk of watching half the Bank of England's reserves evaporate over the duration of a banker's lunch. But once again trouble is brewing over money - to be precise, the institutional arrangements for the ERM's successor, the single currency.

The Blair prime ministership will certainly not be destroyed by the issue as Major's was by Black Wednesday. But after six months of sweet-talk, the honcymoon with Europe is abruptly over. Gordon Brown is sulking and the Government is sounding, and acting, Old Tory. With one important difference. however. The Conservatives knew they could expect few favours in Brussels. Labour is getting the reverse of what it expected.

The row, to recap, is over whether Britain should be represented on Euro-X, the informal committee of Finance the quartel was unnecessary.

EU members who will sign up for the single currency launch in January 1999. Mr Brown. struggling to preserve Britain's claim to be a European pacesetter, says we cannot be excluded from what might become a crucial decisionmaking body. To which the others retort that Britain cannot have its cake and eat it or, in the charming formulation of France's finance minister. that the common currency is a marriage, and "partners in a marriage do not want anyone else in the bedroom". And that was that. Our Iron Chancellor left with a flea in his ear, and a lesson learnt the hard way: don't pick fights you can't

For whatever happens, the Euro-club members will confer regularly among themselves on economic policy. The British can throw the rulebook at them and prevent them meeting on EU premises on the grounds that some EU members are being excluded: in which case the 11 can repair to a local brasserie to deliberate, or do the whole thing by conference call between their capitals. If they don't want the British along, they won't have them.

And to make matters worse,

Ministers from the 11 (of 15) even counter-productive. All it has done is raise the profile of a committee which the Germans anyway would have made sure did not interfere with Bonn's goal of a single currency managed by a European central bank as austere, unbending and apolitical as the Bundesbank. And where had Mr Brown got the idea he might get in? Certainly not from the French at the Canary Wharf summit last month. Perhaps from the Germans. But force the Germans to choose between France and Britain on an article of European faith such as the single currency, and they'll go with the French. Thus was another miscalculation exposed. The Government thought that simply by dint of the fact they were not Tory, and because they talked positively about the European enterprise, their partners would fall over themselves to

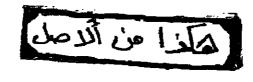
> mand. Not so. But all is far from lost. Despite the Euro-X spat, this Government is infinitely more benignly regarded in Europe than its squabbling and bloodyminded predecessor. And so to Waterloo and the Presidency, a six-month turn under the lights. True, Britain will be on the sidelines as the key EMU decisions are taken (who's in, and at what

accommodate every British de-

exchange rates). But Messrs Blair, Brown, Cook and the assembled cast will have every opportunity to shine, organising 50 summits and ministerial meetings over the six months, setting agendas, launching EU enlargement and driving through decisions on the environment, drugs and crime fighting - all grist for the Blairite mill of a "People's Europe." And finally there is the "bully pulpit" power of the EU presidency, of which the Government is making much.

this week, you can bully Europe only so far. More important is this new chance of reminding the domestic audience of the merits of the European Union. "Message" is something this Government excels at. There will be glitzy logos and catchy initiatives, all designed to implant the notion that Europe and by extension the single currency the Government insists it wants to join - is a good thing. But first that Euro X business must be buried. Let Mr Blair grasp whatever face-saver is on offer at next weekend's Luxembourg summit, for nothing would do more to spoil his Presidency than endless headlines proclaiming "New Row over Europe". It wouldn't be 1992 all over again, but it could get very messy.





GEC yesterday launched a longawaited restructuring by announcing the flotation of the Anglo-French joint venture GEC-Alsthom, a £300m share buy-back and further disposals of UK industrial businesses. Once completed, the managing director George Simpson will have a £2.5bn cash pile at his disposal. Michael Harrison examines how he might spend it.

The flotation of GEC-Alsthom will take place in the first half of next year and is expected to value the power systems and transportation group at between £4bn and £5bn. GEC and Alcatel Alsthorn are selling off 52 per cent of their combined holdings and have agreed not to dispose of the remaining 48 per cent for a year after the

On flotation, the company will be renamed Alsthom and will be listed in Paris. London and New York with headquarters in France. The sale will net GEC between £1bn and £1.3bn. Together with the £300m GEC expects to raise from the disposals of other UK subsidiaries and the £1.2bn already in the balance sheet. GEC will have a war chest of £2.5bn.

The proceeds will be used to finance acquisitions to bolster GEC's defence electronics business Marconi but Mr Simpson did not rule out returning more capital to shareholders in if it could not find businesses that would produce a satisfactory return.

The City broadly welcomed yesterday's announcements, the first real fruits of the restructuring programme since Mr Simpson arrived from Lucas 15 months ago and set out his blueprint for the future of the stake. GEC may now hold onto it and may business in July. Pre-tax profits for the first half were 5 per cent higher before exceptional items at £442m, broadly in line with expectations. The shares rose 13.5p to

403.5p. Although GEC had been planning to sell all of its 50 per cent stake in GEC Alsthom, Mr Simpson described the partial flotation as "a perfectly satisfactory outcome". GEC and Alcatel will appoint an equal number of non-executive directors to the board and Mr Simpson said he did not expect the senior management of the company to alter.

The scale of the buy-back was limited by tax complications since share repurchases are classed as distributions for tax purposes and therefore liable to Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT). GEC has authority to repurchase up to £1.6bn of its capital but had it gone for a bigger buy-back it would have been left with surplus ACT when the tax is abolished in April, 1999.

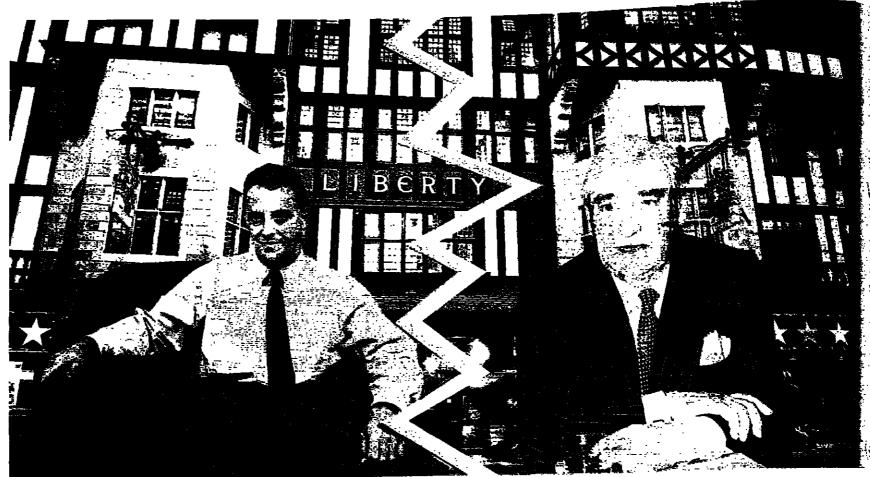
Mr Simpson would not be drawn on the likely targets for GEC's acquisition spree but analysts were sceptical of how easy it would be for the group to find suitable deals. Last month it lost out to British Aerospace in the bidding for Siemens Defence Electronics and for the time being the French have ruled out foreign participation in the privatisation of the defence electronics group Thomson CSF.

Despite this Mr Simpson was upbeat, predicting that the re-organisation of the French defence industry would prove the prelude to it joining in a wider European consolidation that would inevitably involve GEC.

The UK industrial businesses which GEC expects to sell include its semi-conductor subsidiary GPS, Marconi Instruments and its aircraft chartering business. A handful of international trading businesses are also being sold. Mr Simpson said GEC was continuing

to work with Siemens to "reposition" their joint telecoms venture GPT. Having at first seemed intent on selling its 60 per cent even seek to buy out Siemens holding.

GEC will appoint a new chairman early in the new year to succeed Lord Prior who retires in March.



At liberty to differ: Brian Myerson (left) and Denis Cassidy

Gloves off as family feud erupts at Liberty

A bitter family feud has broken out in the battle for control of Liberty, the upmarket Regent Street retailer. The founding Stewart-Liberty family looked certain to succeed in its attempt to oust the group's chairman. But yesterday the board said it had the support of three other branches of the Liberty family dynasty. As the insults start to fly, Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, looks at a messy squabble.

The Liberty board is now claiming it has the backing of 34 per cent of the group's shareholders and has a fighting chance of defeating a motion to oust Denis Cassidy. the group's chairman, at an emergency meeting next Thursday. The board says its support comes from several institutional

investors (18 per cent) and three branches of the family who are cousins of the Stewart-Libertys (16 per cent).

This group consists of around 25 members of the Blackmore, Moffett and Codling families. They are all descendants of Emma Louise Blackmore, the second wife of Liberty's original founder. Arthur Lazenby Liberty. As the couple had no children, control of the company passed to the Stewart-Liberty family.

Some insiders say that the Blackmores. Codlings and Moffetts may have decided to back the board as they have been unimpressed with the performance of the company in which the Stewart-Liberty's have long had a dominant role. The other branches of the family have never had

It is clear that the battle for control has caused a serious rift between the various family factions. One family member backing the board said yesterday: "What the

family has done is devious and despica-

ble and we cannot understand why Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty (who requisitioned the EGM in October) is taking this ac-

Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, the widow of the group's previous chairman, Arthur, requisitioned the meeting to oust Denis Cassidy because the family was unhappy over the company's performance and the board's plans to spend £43m on re-developing the group's flagship Mock Tudor store in London's Regent Street. The plans include a food hall and restaurant on the upper floor.

She joined forces with rebel investor Brian Myerson who has a 17 per cent stake even though she had been strongly critical of him in the past. The concert party any management input into the business. now has the backing of 47 per cent of the

> However, the rest of the board have said that if Mr Cassidy goes they may feel in an untenable position. The advisers have all threatened to resign while the group's

bankers may review the funding support

The board was in upbeat mood vesterday and has sent out an additional circular to investors. Andrew Comments very close. This is why we have sent out another document to remind people that they will not be remind. they will not be wasting their vote."

Odile Griffith, the financial representative of the Stewart-Liberty family, disputed the board's level of support vesterday and said the family was confident they would win. "Come Thursday, everything will be revealed."

Though Mr Cassidy and the board still look unlikely to win there are still several blocks of votes to play for. There are sev- eral institutions account for 13 per cent of the company, which have yet to show their hand. But the final outcome could well 35 75 come down to the few hundred private weekshareholders who control five per cent of the company.

Reuters in £1.5bn shareholder handout Another executive

Reuters finally found a home for its growing cash pile yesterday with an innovative scheme to return £l.5bn to its shareholders. Peter Thal Larsen finds that a whole host of other companies are waiting to follow suit in swapping debt for equity.

The financial information provider is effectively bidding for itself. A new holding company - Reuters Group plc - is to offer 13 new shares and £13.60 in cash for every 15 existing Reuters shares. The move will return a total of £1.5bn to shareholders, leaving the company with net debt on its balance sheet for the first time since 1981.

Rob Rowley, finance director, said the move would improve the company's return on capital.

The Prudential yesterday

admitted it had yet again

missed another deadline

for dealing with top

priority pensions mis-

selling cases. But, in a

conciliatory move, the

£7.4m to those

have vet to be

reports.

company has despatched

customers whose cases

completed. Lea Paterson

The Prudential, the UK's

largest pensions provider, has

missed its third pensions review

target this year. Its regulator, the

Financial Services Authority

(FSA), wanted it to complete all

31,000 of its top-priority pen-

"When you have cash earning a 5 per cent return and shareholders looking for 10 per cent you have a bit of a drag on your performance," he explained.

Mr Rowley said the plan would cost Reuters about £30m in one-off tax and other costs, but avoided the huge Advance Corporation Tax (ACT) bill that share buybacks normally incur. "If we had not done this the scale of the deal would have been limited to half the size." he said. Although Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, announced the abolition of ACT last month, it will not be fully phased out until 1999.

Investors have long criticised Reuters for boarding cash. An attempt to return £613m to shareholders last year was thwarted when the Inland Revenue changed the rules on tax credits attached to special dividends. However, Reuters said the new scheme had full approved Inland Revenue approval.

The announcement went

it had completed only 91 per

cent of cases. "With hindsight,

we underestimated the com-

plexity of the exercise", said

John Elbourne, managing di-

rector of Prudential Assurance.

Pru sent out £7.4m in cheques

to the 3,000 people whose cas-

es the company has been unable

to complete. Families of cus-

tomers who have died during

the review will each receive

£10,000. Those who have retired

stress yesterday that the advance

payments had "no strings at-

tached". Customers who cash in

their cheques are not obliged to

accept the Pru's final offer.

the Treasury, and the FSA

Mr Elbourne was keen to

will receive £2,500.

However, last weekend, the

pushed Reuters shares up 30.5p to 710p. "It's good news," said an analyst. "It should improve their return on capital.

The move is expected to release a wave of capital from other companies eager to hand back cash to shareholders. SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the merchant bank which designed the Reuters scheme, is talking to at least another six companies with similar plans. "The pipeline is fuller now than it has ever been." said corporate financier Max Ziff.

Warburgs calculates that over £9.5bn has been returned to shareholders by companies since October 1996. But that's just a small proportion of the amounts companies could hand back. "UK plc is undergeared compared with the rest of the world," said Mark Tinker, UK equity strategist at investment bank UBS.

He calculates that if British companies took on the same

down well with investors, who level of debt as companies elsewhere, they would be able to buy back shares worth £100bn. Cash-rich companies like Marks & Spencer and Bass are prime candidates to take on

more debt.

Mr Tinker said the abolition of dividend tax credits in July's budget had reduced the attraction of dividends for investors, making it easier for companies to buy back shares. However, the continued existence of ACT which requires companies to pay tax up front on any money they pay to shareholders - made large buybacks impossible. prompting groups like Reuters to devise complex schemes that avoided ACT

Now that ACT is to be

abolished, however, companies will be free to buy back as many shares as they like. Indeed. Reuters announced yesterday that, in addition to the £1.5bn pay out, it would buy back shares worth £200m during 1998.

to go at BSkyB

BSkyB is bracing itself for the then. Richard Brooke, finance resignation of another senior member of staff as Jeremy Boulton, director of programme acquisitions, is poised to quit the satellite broadcaster for a similar position at the

newly invigorated ITV. According to well-placed industry sources. Mr Boulton is to join ITV as controller of acquisitions, replacing Jeff Ford, who left recently for Channel Five. The move will come as a blow to BSkyB which, under its new chief executive, Mark Booth, is trying to increase its investments in programming.

Mr Booth, who formally took over from Sam Chisholm last month, said earlier this week that BSkyB would start making made-for-television films with budgets of up to £5m. The satellite broadcaster has also been looking at taking minority stakes in independent production companies, although it is now thought to have Pru offers £7.4m pensions olive branch backed proach. backed away from that ap-

The latest departure follows a succession of senior staff changes triggered by the exit of Mr Chisholm. He resigned in the summer due to ill health, and his deputy. David Chance, also said he was stepping down, although he remains as a consultant. Since

director, has quit, and, most recently, Jim Hytner, marketing director, left the company to take up the same post at Indices Channel Five.

The resignations - combined with regulatory challenges have hit the company's share price hard. From a peak of 662.5p early in the year, BSkyB has plunged to just over the 450p mark. Last night, the company closed up 6.75p at 461p.

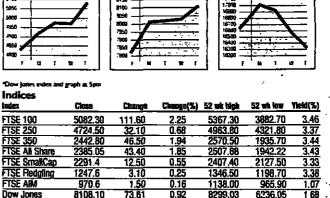
Mr Boulton was not available for comment last night, and ITV Network Centre also refused to return calls.

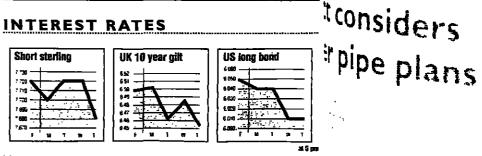
However, Mr Booth said at the beginning of the week that there was likely to be continued turnover among BSkyB's top management.

Mr Boulton's decision to join ITV comes at a challenging time for the network. Richard Eyre, formerly chief executive of Capital Radio, was appointed chief executive of ITV earlier this year, with a brief to unify the disparate owners of independent television, and revive the dwindling audience share. Mr Eyre was joined in August by David Liddiment, previously Granada Broadcasting managing director, who became director of programmes.

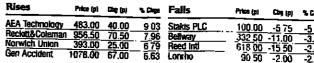
- Cathy Newman

STOCK MARKETS

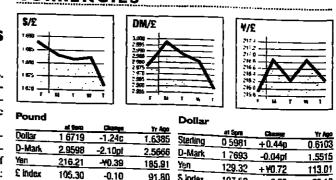




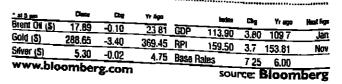
Money Market Rates izlex 3 menth 1 yr cbg



CURRENCIES



91.80 S Index



adding £7.54 to the current annual monthly mortgage payment on a repayment mortgage

action to the last increase in interest rates. Deputy chief executive Gren Folwell said: £ Index "We believe that this will not have a detrimental effect upon OTHER INDICATORS the housing market and we are optimistic what the continued gradual improvement in house prices will continue into 1998." Base rates unchanged, page 27

sions mis-selling cases by the end of last month. But vesterday, the company said that difficulties in obtaining data meant

Nor will customers have to repay the Pru if the final offer falls short of the advance payment. In recent months, the Pru has been subjected to stinging criticism from both Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to (then known as the Securities come, but this does not mean Investment Board) for dragging its feet in the pensions mis-selling review. The company missed regu-

latory deadlines in both June and September, prompting the FSA to declare in October that the Pru had failed to act with "due skill, care and diligence". Following this "naming and shaming. Sir Peter Davis, the Pru's chief executive. publicly apologised to the victims of mis-selling. Speaking on BBC2's The Money Programme, he said: "We're very sorry about those who have been hurt and we're doing everything we can to try and deal with the issues".

The Pru's advance payments are not substitutes for full recompense for pensions mis-selling, as emphasised by both the FSA and the Treasury yesterday. A spokesperson for the FSA said: "Measures that are beneficial to investors are always wel-

that the cases are complete". A spokesperson for the Treasury greed, saying: "We welcome it [the advance payment initiative] as an earnest of good faith, but it is not a proper substitute for a prompt, full and fair settlement".

Mr Elbourne said yesterday that the Pru had been unable to meet last month's regulatory target because customers had failed to return information essential to the review. The Pru hopes that the weekend's advance payments will prompt customers to provide the data the company needs. Mr Elbourne added that the Pru has received 500 calls to a special pensions helpline since the cheques were despatched.

The Pru's next deadline is the end of December, by which time it is required to complete 90 per cent of lower priority, socalled "Priority Two and Three", cases.

Halifax raises mortgage rates

to face higher mortgages from next year following the decision by the Halifax, the UK's largest lender, to raise the cost of borrowing. The news dampened the relief felt across the country after the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee voted to keep the base rate on hold at 7.25 per cent.

Halifax will raise its standard variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent from 8.45 per cent to 8.70 per cent immediately for new borrowers, and from Jan-

Up to 2.5 million households are uary 1 for existing borrowers. of £373.77 on a £50,00 loan.

It said it was a delayed re-

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OUTLOOK ON THE DANGERS OF REUTERS-STYLE CAPITAL DISTRIBUTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF GEC

The lazy route to enhanced return on capital

constructions and the like, but they do seem to be sweeping corporate Britain right now as never before; the business of handing out large amounts of cash to shareholders has very definitely become a phenomenon.

Reuters and GEC yesterday became the latest to catch the bug - the former with a £1.5bn distribution, the latter with a £300m buy-back and the promise of more to come. It was tempting to think that Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor, effectively killed these things off when he cracked down on dividend tax credits just ahead of his last budget. Remove the tax incentive, and capital distribution schemes would lose much of their appeal, was the general view. Not a bit of it. Since then, £9.5bn has been returned to shareholders over and above ordinary dividends and there are now more of these things in the pipeline than ever be-

What's causing companies to hare down this route? Are these handouts just another fee earning devise for investment bankers, a temporary and possibly financially quite dangerous corporate fad, or are there good reasons for companies to be doing this? Like most things commercial, the fashion comes from the United States, where capital distributions of the type launched by Reuters yesterday are now so common that they often go unreported.

Reuters and its advisers, SBC Warburg, have come up with a clever new way of performing the trick, even if it amounts to just a variant of the same thing; the company

There is nothing particularly new in share is bidding for itself. The effect is to structure their capital in this way, and produce a cortex of capital return. This the cost of capital.

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There is nothing particularly new in share is bidding for itself. The effect is to structure their capital in this way, and produce a cortex of capital. ital rather than an income distribution, and thus allow Reuters to avoid paying advance corporation tax on the whole thing. This is particularly important for Reuters, since most of its earnings are overseas and it would therefore be unable to offset the ACT against its main UK tax bill.

Most companies are not in this position, and in any case would probably find the Reuters approach just too complicated and expensive to try. All the same, virtually every company runs up against some sort of ACT problem when it attempts a distribution of this sort, even though most can eventually offset the extra ACT liability against their main stream tax. All impediments will cease in April 1999, when ACT is abolished, and it will then be no holds barred. If you think there are already far too many capital distributions, just wait till then. According to one estimate, there is £100bn of potential for handouts in the UK stock market.

In business there are two ways of improving return on capital and thus shareholder value. One way is the self evident and wholly commendable one of striving for improved efficiency and general business success. But if this seems too much like hard work, there may be another. Plainly the rate of return also goes up if the cost of capital is reduced. Since debt is always a good deal cheaper than equity, because it is generally considered a less risky form of capital, it can obviously make sense to replace the eq-

Some companies can halve the cost of no one will lend on any other terms. In oth-

is very much the lazy route to improved return on capital, so it is not hard to see why

it appeals to so many executives. However, there are obvious dangers. If companies load themselves up with too much debt they may become unable to fund their interest costs when the economy turns nasty. That's probably not going to happen with a company as large and financially robust as Reuters, but it is possible with smaller more cyclical companies which have perhaps been forced too far down this road by a hostile takeover bid.

Furthermore, the phenomenon may have some adverse effect on direct investment in the economy. Logically it shouldn't, since reducing the cost of capital in a company should improve the expected rate of return on new investment and therefore make managements even keener to invest in new projects. However, this is very much theoretical, business school mindset which though it might strike a cord among some FTSE 100 companies, doesn't belong to the real world of ordinary business. For most companies, having cash in the bank makes the difference between making do with the old machinery and buying the new.

The argument for buy-backs also suffers from a fatal flaw. By loading up with debt, the company increases the cost of its equity, since by definition the remaining equity must become more risky. In very highly geared companies, the cost of the debt may also become excessive, simply because

To assess the real effect of all these canital repayments on the fabric of our companies, we are going to have to await the next recession and cyclical peak in interest rates. Some companies are going to regret they ever listened to the investment bankers. In the meantime, everyone makes hav.

GEC will still have money to spend

Reuters rather stole GEC's thunder with its blockbuster buy-back but if George Simpson can successfully complete the reconstruction of the empire bequeathed by Lord Weinstock, then he will not mind too much. The strategy as set out is simplicity itself. Sell off the joint ventures in trains, planes and telecoms and reinvest the cash in acquisitions to turn Marconi into a world beating defence electronics business. Unfortunately, life is rarely that straightforward in the world of international defence manufacturing.

A year and a bit into the task, progress remains patchy. Mr Simpson inherited a business with a hopelessly inefficient balance sheet and a risk-averse culture. He has gone some way to addressing the latter handicap, notably with the streamlining of the management and the appointment as finance director of John Mayo from Zeneca, who can be relied upon to ginger things up.

But the net effect of yesterday's an-

sheet groaning under more not less cash sitting on deposit at Barclays. The flotation of GEC Alsthorn should bring in £1bn while another £300m is likely to be raised from the disposal of the rump of GEC's UK industrial businesses. Together with the £1.2bn already on hand, Mr Simpson will have a war chest of some £2.5bn ready to spend on acquisitions. If GEC goes the whole hog and loads up with debt, then its

spending power would be even greater.

The problem with having that sort of money burning a hole in your back pocket is that the market tends to see you coming. Mr Simpson knows this. He declined to pay the asking price for Siemens Defence and as a result lost out to his erstwhile colleague, Sir Dick Evans of British Aerospace.

Mr Simpson was not sharing his thoughts yesterday as to where else the money might be invested. But France looks to be off the menu for a while given the Jospin government's determination to keep its defence restructuring an exclusively Gallic affair. Openings also look limited in the US, where GEC would love to do some deals but keeps running into the brick wall known as the Pentagon black programmes.

That leaves the option of handing more cash back to shareholders. GEC pleaded tax problems for the modest distribution announced yesterday. But in his previous life, Mr Mayo was a high-flying corporate financier with Warburgs. After Reuters example yesterday, he will not be short of an

Labour faces 'Yes Minister' rift over coal crisis

A policy rift has opened within the Department of Trade and Industry, after it emerged that senior civil servants attempted to block Labour's recent initiatives to defuse the coal crisis. Chris Godsmark, **Business Correspondent,** reports on the increasingly frosty relations which observers have likened to an episode from "Yes

The internal disagreements between ministers and officials over energy policy have come as Labour faced increasing criticism from mining unions and industry executives over the coal crisis.

Minister."

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has been accused by unions of focusing too much attention on attacking Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB

Mining, and too little time trying to prevent looming pit

Sources close to the DTI said civil servants had tried to block Labour's two key policies designed to eliminate the bias against coal. The two civil servants involved are thought to be Jonathan Green, director of electricity with overall responsibility for the power industry, and Malcolm Keay, director of energy policy and analysis.

Labour's hastily assembled moratorium on further approvals of gas-fired power stations this week was opposed by officials, who argued it would conflict with the existing policy framework. It was only when ministers spotted press reports of concerns by National Grid over the dash for gas that they had the justification to overcome the resistance.

Mr Battle hinted at the rift during evidence on Wednesday to the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee. He told MPs that the DTI did not have an anti-coal policy.

"There's no bias against coal at all ... There's no downer on

But Mr Battle admitted to the committee that the earlier move to review the Electricity Pool, announced in the autumn, had met with internal "resistance." The pool, the wholesale power market, is frequently blamed for encouraging the gas-fired power stations at the expense of coal.

The rift gives an insight into Labour's difficulty in changing policy in the DTI, the department which pioneered Thatcherite privatisation and deregulation policy. Sources also described a Yes Minister" mentality over access to ministers.

Meanwhile power companies warned yesterday that the moratorium could block future coal-fired power stations' applications as well as gasgeneration projects. The delay on further approvals applies to all generating licences from the DTI, including environmentally friendly combined heat and power schemes.

Byatt considers water pipe plans

New proposals to force water a landmark competition scheme companies to open their pipeline networks to competition have been submitted to the Government by Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator.

In an interview with The Independent, Mr Byatt said yesterday he planned to use the Government's Competition Bill to promote so-called "common carriage," where competitors can gain access to water company pipes. The new Bill would give a, utility regulators and the Office of Fair Trading the power to intervene to ban anti-competitive

"If a company were to unreasonably deny the use of its pipes that could be held to be a breach of competition." said Mr Byatt. Previous plans to conneet pipeline networks of different water groups were unveiled by the last Government, but Mr Byatt said there were still "sitting on ministers" desks."

But Jeremy Bryan, managing director of Envirologic, the consultancy group which has pioneered water competition. questioned whether common earnage was the best way to achieve competition. "Some water company pipes are 100 years old and leak like a sieve. If you put high quality water in one end it won't come out that way at the other end."

Mr Byatt also said he expected to give the go-ahead to

by Enviro-Logic before Christ- FI Group became the latest in mas. It would take over the provision of water and sewerage services to Shotton Paper in newsprint producers, from Welsh Water.

Mr Byan, who has spent five years bombarding Ofwat, the water watchdoe, with competition proposals, said he was ready to begin work on the scheme as soon as he received a "green light" from the regulator.

Mr Byatt also issued a warning to water companies over the next five year price cap, which he has already said will see a substantial one-off cut in customer bills in 2000. He said the most efficient water companies would face the biggest cut in revenues. which analysts have predicted will be at least 10 per cent.

"A company which has done well in the current five year peried would have a big cut to benadding that in the following four years of the price cap the company would face a less stringent regime than inefficient water groups.

The regulator also made clear the principle of a one-off cut was not negotiable, despite demands by the Environment Agency that the revenues should environmental improvements, Chris Godsmark

Fi Group buys Indian computer company

a line of UK technology companies to make a passage to India, after it announced Wales, one of the largest yesterday that it was buying a New Delhi-based computer services company for £22m.

News that fast growing FI was making its first acquisition outside the UK plus a forecast from the company that profits for the current half year would be 54 per cent higher at £4.3m, sent FI's shares 107.5p higher at 845p.

Shares in the company were floated at 235p less than two years ago. The deal to buy 76 per cent of HS Infotech with an option on the remaining stake will be part funded by a £14.6m one for 12 rights issue at 640p

FI joins UK computer companies like Logica and Micro Focus which have spotted the potential of the booming Indian efit customers," said Mr Byatt. IT market. India already produces more IT graduates than the USA each year, which is attractive given the world-wide shortage of computer programmers to deal with the millennium crisis.

As Hilary Cropper, Fl's chief executive points out, the cost of employing an Indian graduate is a third lower than a UK graduate, an important be redirected to investment in consideration given soaring wage inflation in the industry. - Sameena Ahmad

The New Tudor Chronograph, around £1,000.



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EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Great Universal Stores: At a glance

1994

36.9

15.0

Market value: £7.14bn, share price 710p (+25p)

Five-year record

Pre-tax profits (Em)

Earnings per share (p)

Orridends per share (p)

Profit by division

- Home Shopping

GUS still has a

long way to go

there is still a way to go.

at Burberry.

Great Universal Stores was always go- run.

ing to be a long haul for chairman Lord

Wolfson. Yesterday's figures show

per cent to £244m the improvement

was due entirely to a strong perfor-

currency hit in continental Europe and

as might appear and management is

Sales there increased by 6.4 per cent

its previous stagnant state.

While half year profits edged up 7

them sharply though part was from a was a surprise.

However, problems are not as bad be tightened up.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

2.8

Turning around slumbering giant ons sales will be stronger in the long

mance from the Experian data base were under pressure, but news of trad-

and credit rating business. Profits in ing through unlicensed distributors in

all the retail businesses fell, some of the brand causing a hit of up to £8m

addressing the key issues. One is to dri- Experian. Acquired for £1bn a year

ve the UK mail order business from ago, it is performing strongly and now

over the previous half partly due to in- here and the balance sheet will show

2.8

378.5

37.6

1996 96/97 97/98

15.6

vices costs such as better response and

Buying sales growth with lower

The £20m deal to buy four direct

mail order catalogues from Burton will

take GUS's direct mail order sales to

more than £100m and it is clear Lord

Wolfson would love to do larger deals.

At Burberry, the City knew sales

Lord Wolfson admitted it showed

The real bonanza for GUS has been

lack of supply controls that will now

accounts for a third of GUS profits.

Other bolt-on deals are expected

Calls received abroad on Orange cost up to

Incoming calls are cheaper in 46 countries when you're abroad with an Orange Motorola 601 (the

world's first dual band phone). For example, an incoming peak rate call in Stockholm is 68% less

than Cellnet or Vodafone. And if you're in the UK, you can call over 200 countries direct and save at least 20% compared to BT's standard rates. Orange now have 95% coverage of the UK population

and are investing £800 million in expanding the network further. To find out more about joining

Business World tariff. Cellnet comparison neak time on Frequent Caller tariff

credit scoring customers is increasing

bad debt ratings, though GUS reck-

164 18.0 5.5 6.0

236.8 254.1

AΓ LO TE

the Orange network, call direction 0800 8010 80 or visit our website at www.orange.co.uk

Savings are based on standard network recommended call rates, excluding discount or optional schemes and promotional offers. Vodatone comparison peak time on

cluding more higher risk customers. £500m of cash by the spring to fund But profits fell due to improved ser- them.

£580m, the shares - up 25p yesterday to 710p, trade on a forward rating of 18. High enough for now.

Salvesen should have accepted bid

Here's a simple question. Would shareholders in Christian Salvesen be better off now if the logistics group had not rejected Hays' mooted cash bid 18 months ago? The answer is a re- motor dealer sounding yes. A bid from Hays would have been worth at least £1bn or 390p a share, ex-dividend.

Compare that with the current combined value of the demerged company - Salvesen, the rump distribution group, and Aggreko, the bigger power hire business.

Even after yesterday's 9p rise in Salvesen's shares to 103p and Aggreko's 5.5p rise to 164p, and including Salvesen's recent £150m special payout, investors own shares worth 318p. And that is after a 15 per cent or so hike in the market since Hays' first showed interest.

Given his legacy, Chris Masters. Salvesen's ex-chief executive who fought off Hays and is now running Aggreko, must be amazed he has a job at all. What should investors do with their shares now? The hire market for power equipment is booming, particularly in the US, Aggreko's largest mar-

ket, and there are opportunities in Asia. Aggreko's shares have outperformed the market by around 5 per cent since demerger and are on a 15 per cent market premium next year. Lower than Hays', it is fair as Aggreko is smaller and growing more slowly. Investors should hold on. Salvesen is a harder call. Its food services business. 15 per cent of the total and hit by the shares are not worth chasing.

Assuming full year profits of poor pea harvest, is dire and should be sold. However. Swift, Salvesen's overnight delivery service is growing fast and margin pressures in food retailing

distribution are easing.

The yield next year will be a good 6 per cent, and there is the chance of a bid. The unknown is chief Edward Roderick, ex-Hays, and markets are still tough. However with Salvesen on a 25 per cent market discount, hold.

Pitfalls for a

Does the stock market need another car dealer? As an industry, motor distributors suffer from wafer-thin margins, overcapacity and low growth prospects. Not to mention the grip exerted over their businesses by the car manufacturers. Most dealers have made appalling investments.

Sytner, founded and chaired by former racing driver Frank Sytner, is better than most. In the three years to December 1996 profits rocketed from £480,000 to £2.67m. A further rise to £6.5m is forecast for 1997.

Much of the growth has come from acquisitions. But Sytner has also squeezed better sales out of the dealerships it takes over. It plans to use the £16.9m float proceeds - a further £6.2m will be shared between venture capitalists and directors - to expand and

take on new marques like Jaguar. There are pitfalls, however. Manufacturers will jealously limit the number of dealerships Sytner is allowed to take on. An environmentally inspired tax on gas guzzlers would also hurt Sytner

more than most. it may be one of the best car distributors around. But at 2300 - a multiple of 11 times forecast earnings - the

Centrica pays £440m to settle take-or-pay North Sea contracts

Centrica, the demerged **British Gas supply** business, yesterday lifted a huge burden from its balance sheet, with £440m worth of deals to settle the bulk of its long running "take-or-pay" problem from high-price North Sea gas contracts.

As Chris Godsmark, **Business Correspondent,** reports, the agreements with three oil companies yesterday mark the end of a two years of marathon negotiations.

At signing ceremonies in Amsterdam yesterday Centrica agreed to pay £365m to buy itself out of high-priced gas contracts with Conoco. Elf and Total in the biggest of renegotiation package so far unveiled by the company.

The contracts, most of which were signed in the early to mid-1980s, were to supply 6 million therms of gas. Though Centrica declined to specify the cost of the gas, it was thought

to be committed to paying near to 20p a therm in the contracts, around twice the current market price.

The company also refused to reveal the new prices in the renogotiated contracts, but they are believed to near to the market price. It means the group's average purchase cost of gas has fallen from about 18p a therm to about 14p a therm. Centrica, which split itself off from the old British Gas in February, also revealed options to spend £155m by 2008 to buy out further contracts with Conoco. The arrangement, which will depend on the future level of gas reserves, involves a further provision of £75m from Centrica's profits this year, bring-

ing the total bill to £440m. It means Centrica has renegotiated about two thirds of its take-or-pay burden, or 46 billion therms, over the past year. Earlier deals included paying £295m to British Petroleum and an agreement with Mobil

which cost £340m. Ken Gardener, a director of Charterhouse Bank who has spent the past two years renegotiating the deals on second-

ment with Centrica, said the

new prices were in line with the market price.

Reed Elsevier

He said there were "two or three" smaller deals in the pipeline, the first of which would be revealed in the new year. Centrica shares rose 2.75p, to 92.5p.

"Centrica has a fighting chance to compete on a level playing field. We're clearing away the legacy of the past.'

Rachel Beaver, analyst with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said the deal had all but eliminated the take-or-pay problem. "This is also a major endorsement for the management. They said they would do this by the end of the year and they've delivered."

The take-or-pay burden emerged spectacularly in 1995. when the market price of gas plummeted to less than 100 a therm. British Gas had committed itself to buying gas at high prices in contacts which obliged the company to take delivery of supplies from producers or pay the equivalent cost in compensation, leaving a £30bn burden in its accounts.

Mr Gardener rejected suggestions that Centrica was paying too high a price to extricate itself from the contracts.

Wedgwood plans foray into Europe

Waterford Wedgwood, the Irish luxury crystal to crockery manufacturer chaired by Tony O'Reilly, is planning a march into continental Europe with a DM105.8m (£35.5m) offer to control Rosenthal, one of Germany's most famous porcelain makers.

The deal to buy its outstanding stake in Rosenthal will give Waterford, which currently sells in the UK. Ireland, John McGrath, chief executive US and Japan. a quarter of the German market. Mr O'Reilly said the move was "the next stage in building the company into an international luxury brands group".

Waterford currently already owns or has agreed to acquire 31.4 per cent of Rosenthal and has options to buy another 13.5 per cent, giving the company cffective control of 44.9 per cent is offering DM200 a share for the outstanding shares, representing an 18 per cent premium to Rosenthal's closing price on Wednesday.

Though Waterford will control ket, German anti-trust authorities have given their go-ahead for the takeover. The deal came less than 48 hours after Mr O'Reilly stepped down as chairman and chief executive of HJ Heinz. the US food manufacturer.

GrandMet signs off on a high note Grand Metropolitan

yesterday reported its last set of results before it concludes its £24m merger with Guinness on 17 December. **Andrew Yates reflects** on the creation of a new drinks colossus.

designate of Diageo, yesterday signalled that the new drinks group was likely to give more money back to shareholders over the next few years on top of the 70p-a-share £2.8bn payout, it has already promised.

GrandMet predicted that the drinks industry would undergo a huge consolidation in the wake of its merger with Guinness. "A lot of companies of the company. The company are under pressure and consolidation will take place. We welcome this as we prefer to have rational competitors ... rather than unpredictable ones," Mr McGrath said.

a large share of the German mar- that its Burger King fast food chain is poised to step up its attack on arch-rival McDonald's. It is about to launch Big King, Super Fry, a new chip that is designed to stay crispier for longer, in the UK.

Mr McGrath said: "The

GrandMet also revealed a giant cheese burger, and the

burger market has been relatively flat but we have continued to gain market share by introducing new products. We will not cut prices like Mc-Donald's."

George Bull, chairman of GrandMet said he was sad to see the end of GrandMet: "This is an end of an era but we join Diageo in good shape." Analysts agreed that GrandMet has signed off on a high note. with underlying pre-tax profits coming in anead of expectation at £981m thanks to a strong performance from the IDV spirits

Mr McGrath said he was confident the merger with Guinness would be sanctioned by the US Federal Trade Commission within a week.

GrandMet also confirmed that Bernard Arnault, the head of French luxury goods group LVMH who had threatened to scupper the deal, had agreed to take a seat on the Diageo board as soon as the new company was formed. LVMH will own 11 per cent of Diageo. However, under a new agreement Mr Arnault cannot increase that stake above 15 per cent.

Diageo has already announced it will cut its workforce by 2,000. However analysts believe the final figure could be much higher than that.

P&O forced to slash flotation price of Bovis

P&O has been forced to slash the flotation price of Bovis Homes, its house building business. Andrew Yates reports on the troubled sale, which has proved an embarrassment for the transport conglomerate.

When P&O put Bovis up for sale a year ago the business was valued at £300m. In October it was estimated to be worth £250m. However yesterday P&O announced that the house builder was to be floated for just £225.6m, equivalent to 200p a

P&O put the blame on the turmoil in the world's stock markets. Fears that the housing market is beginning to slow after a succession of interest rate hikes have also caused shares in the housing sector to plunge.

rutch son telecon

A P&O spokesman said: "We are very happy with the price. You have to take into account that the overall stock market and the house building sector has fallen 10 per cent since October."

P&O also denied that it could have got a better price if it had sold Bovis earlier. "We would have to had to rely on 1996 profit figures which would have meant floating at a large discount. The general election also caused a lot of uncertainty," said the spokesman.

However analysts were scathing about the way P&O had handled the sale. One said: "As the value put on Bovis has tumbled its management team and P&O have lost a lot of credibility."

Another City observer said: from start to finish. It is stupid to float now with the housing sector where it is. Why not wait until it recovers?"

Malcolm Harris, chief executive of Bovis, admitted that house prices in the Southeast had flattened out after a period of rapid growth. Howprices should continue to rise by 3 per cent a year around the country.

P&O will use the money to invest in its cruise ships, the best performing part of its business. Dealings in Boxis will start next Tuesday.

Trocadero to scrap Segaworld admission charge

Trocadero is poised to scrap admission prices at Segaworld, the troubled hi-tech amusement park which forms the centrepiece of its London leisure complex - its latest attempt to revive Segaworld's flagging fortunes.

Segaworld is to undergo a £650,000 facelift and allow customers in free in an effort to make Europe's largest indoor entertainment centre profitable.

according to industry sources. John Conlan, Trocadero's new chairman, said yesterday. "We have realised that this is not This sale has been botched an indust theme park. It is an amusement areade and you would not normally pay to go to an amusement arcade."

Segaworld is a £50m.joint venture between Trocadero and Sega, the Japanese games giant It has proved an embarrassing flop since it opened its doors in ever he predicted that house share price tumbling to 1959 1996, which has sent Trocadero's after standing at 79.5p last year.

Poor attendance forced Segaworld to slash admission prices from £12 to £2. Even so unik about 1 million people have come through its doors this year, 700,000 less than forecast. - Andrew Yotes

Reed Elsevier takes a knock as Footsie breaks 5,000 barrier

MARKET REPORT



CATHY NEWMAN

necessarily being good news. giant said it could still give no estimates. further detail of the financial impact of irregularities in circulation figures in its Travel makers took fright, and sent the shares down by 15.5p to Footsie faller in an otherwise effervescent market. A hefty price either. eight million shares changed

bands. Reed said more than two figures for the hotel and airline directories had been overstated between 1991 and 1996, company kicked off a thorough investigation into the probable to give its shareholders an cent underperformance, with Union jumped 25p to 393p;

For Reed Elsevier yesterday, update on the charge to the the shares falling in recent General Accident clambered race to break the 5,000 barri- Gordon only rated it a "hold". come to as much as £200m- earlier in the year. In a trading update, the media £300m, according to analysts'

also a reflection of a lack of

Some analysts said the household goods company was see- performance overnight. HSBC and that advertisers would ing some bid interest, with added on 77p to £16.72, and have to be compensated. The potential buyers including Col- Standard Chartered rose 39p gate Palmolive and Unilever. to 750p.
Others thought the spurt had Insura lems, but has so far been un- more to do with Reckitt's re- also in demand. Norwich

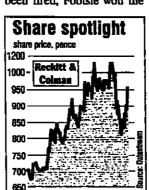
Despite the excitement, Reed followers said yes-nancial stocks saw most of the line insurance stocks followed terday's fall from grace was real money yesterday. Banks the lead set by their Footsie 5082.3, up 111.6 points. piggy-backed on speculation Group publications. Market- news on European regulatory that ABN Amro was in talks approval for the merger with about buying NatWest Al-Wolters Kluwer. News of though Amro attempted to 618p, making Reed the biggest problems from sterling's quash the rumours, saying strength didn't help the share- they were "total nonsense" NatWest surged 22.5p to Where dealers spurned 925.5p. Royal Bank of Scot-Reed. Reckitt & Colman was land joined the gravy train, up wanted. Market makers smelt 29.5p to 720p. Another factor months ago that circulation corporate activity and sent helping the Hong Kong-inthe shares up 70.5p to 956.5p. fluenced shares in the sector was the Hang Seng's ebullient

Insurance companies were

it was a case of no news not year's profits, which could months from a high of £10.27 on to the bandwagon and end- er within the first half hour. ed up 67p to £10.78; and Com- The rest of the day, there was iting Geest, the food producmercial Union clocked up no turning back, and the index ers, bumped the shares up 9p the volume was low, and fi- another 43p to 888p. Second-

> £11.48. Once the starting gun had been fired, Footsie won the

> peers. Independent Insurance,



cruised effortlessly to the fin- to 391.5p. Analysis met the ish, ending at a day-high of company the day before,

The Monetary Policy Comfor one, improved by 35p to mittee's decision to leave in- from Denby Group helped

boosted sentiment. Renters, ucts had boosted profits. which is returning £1.5bn to shareholders, shot up 30.5p to 13.5p to 403.5p after unveiling plans for a £300m share buyback. Reuters was also buoyed by positive noises from brokers. Société Générale and optimistic, although Panmure

Elsewhere, institutions viswhich also massaged the price. Meanwhile, good results

terest rates unchanged was a the crockery and cookware big factor in Footsie's exu- company cook up a 12.5p rise berance. A positive opening on to 155p. The group reported Wall Street also aided the in- a 9.1 per cent increase in predex. Volume was a pretty im- tax profits to £6.63m for the pressive 937.9 million shares. year to the end of September, A clutch of buy-backs and said its array of new prod-

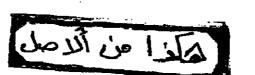
GUS, the mail order behemoth, also benefited from 710p, and GEC edged up good results and shrugged off somewhat negative broker comment. The company ended the session 25p richer at 710p, after reporting a four per cent increase in pre-tax prof-NatWest were both broadly it before exceptionals to

TAKING STOCK

DPA-Egami, the Ofex-quoted company which specialises in electronic management systems, yesterday said it was launching a one for two rights issue at 15p a share to raise £922,500 for various developments. The company is to appoint a sales and marketing director and is to expand its direct sales team. It also wants to expand its project management teams and establish a presence in Europe.

Easynet Group, the internet service provider which is traded on AIM, saw its shares jump 4p to 93.5p after awarding a £1.6m telephony contract to GPT. The contract, which combines internet and telecoms technologies, will allow Easynet to route its telephone calls through its network centre in London.

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The British attitude to the rest

of Europe on economic per-

formance veers between boast-

ing about our high employment

and bemoaning our low pro-

ductivity. Is it us or other coun-

tries that are too weak to enter

Economic and Monetary

Treasury indicate that we do not

have a monopoly of economic

virtue. We may be more flexi-

ble than other countries in

varying the length of the work-

ing week, upwards as well as

flexible enough in terms of

day is some 20 per cent less pro-

competitors," Gordon Brown,

Chancellor of the Exchequer,

admitted in his pre-Budget

and reduced efficiency is that

GDP per head are 4 per cent

lower than the EU average. We

are 10th, ahead of Ireland.

Spain, Portugal and Greece,

and behind all our main in-

dustrial rivals. (The figures are

based on OECD statistics for

but the broad picture is the

GDP per head is equal to

hours worked per head of pop-

ulation (labour input) times

GDP per hour worked (pro-

on capital inputs, including

human skills as well as physical

investment. Hours per head of

population are hours per person

employed times the percentage

employed of the total population

rates and productivity levels

than they do in living standards.

The graph shows different

countries' combinations of

Foreign Exchange Rates

2,4832 201776 60,7776 2,3690 11,223 14881 8,907 9,862 2,9479 465,98 12,925 11,362 2,7697 11,936 3,018 2,7697 11,936 3,018 2,6987 11,936 3,018 2,6987

Countries vary even more in

(the employment rate).

ductivity). Productivity depends cost

The net result of extra effort

ductive than our main

downwards. But we are not yet LIVING

our living standards in terms of AVERAGE

1995. Different years and other It is, however, well below that

sources give different figures, of Japan, the US and the Far

working hours, employment longest average working hours

effort in thousands of hours country. The relatively high

skills to join EMU. "Britain to- STANDARDS

Recent statements from the

CHRISTOPHER

ON WHY OUR

IOHNSON

STILL LAG

BEHIND THE

ing power parities. The UK's

labour input is 764 hours a year

per head of population, second

only to Denmark's in the EU.

Eastern "tigers". Japan's pro-

UK, and the US's less than the

EU average. Their higher GDP

per head is due to longer work-

ing hours, so it has a welfare

labour input partly by having

44 per cent of the population

(71 per cent of 15-64s) in em-

ployment. Its employment rate

comes below those of only

Denmark and Sweden in the

EU. Britain also has the

per employee after Spain and

Finland - 1735 hours a year.

We input 20 per cent more

labour than the average EU

worked and efficiency in GDP number of part-time workers son hour is 20 per cent below

per hour in dollars at purchas- is more than made up for by the EU average of \$29, and 13th

Britain achieves its high

EUROPEAN

Union?

and Portugal, Italy and the not fall by more than the in-

crease in employment.

Looking at it another way.

if productivity per hour is ris-

ing, people can do less work and

enjoy more leisure, yet still be

better off. The story of eco-

nomic progress over the cen-

turies has been one of shorter

hours, and productivity rising

faster than the fall in hours. Re-

For any given objective in

sult: higher living standards.

tries have a choice of different

combinations of labour input

and hourly productivity. With-

in the EU. Italy and the

Netherlands have chosen one

end of the spectrum, with short

hours and high productivity.

The UK and to a lesser extent

the Scandinavian countries

have taken the other end, with

long hours and low prod-

productivity by 25 per cent to

the EU average, while keeping

its present working hours, it

would overtake all the other

EU countries with a similar rise

in living standards. If it could

do even half as well, with a 12.5

per cent increase in productiv-

ity, it would be level pegging

with France and Germany at a

GDP per head of \$20,000 a

Thatcher era, the UK managed

to raise productivity faster than

its EU rivals, without catching

them up. If it could now in-

crease productivity 2.5 per cent

a year faster than them for five

years, it could catch up in terms

of living standards though not

in terms of productivity levels.

ticularly by means of more

jobs rather than longer hours

- and lower productivity are a

* Christopher Johnson is UK

Adviser to the Association for the

Liffe Financial Futures

Higher labour input - par-

in the better years of the

If only the UK could raise

the longer full-time working in ranking, above only Greece as long as GDP per head does

figure of \$38 an hour, followed

by Belgium (\$36), France (\$32).

Austria (\$31) and Germany

that France and Germany are

25-30 per cent ahead of the UK

on productivity; my figures are

35 per cent for France and 30

per cent for Germany. The

DTT's sectoral analysis shows

eficial to welfare, as long as it that only chemicals and paper terms of living standards, coun-

average. All other sectors have

lower productivity, some as

recognised by the measures in

countries have done better,

while the US has done almost

as badly, owing to the defi-

ciencies its education system

little investment in physical

capital and research and de-

velopment as well as low-skilled

human capital, for the UK's

poor productivity. "For every

£100 per worker invested in the

UK between 1983 and 1993.

Germany and the US invested

nearly £140, France almost

£150 and Japan over £160."

One of the Government's main

arguments for going into EMU

is that it would lower interest

rates and increase investment.

is an inverse relationship be-

tween labour input and pro-

ductivity, at least among the

more advanced EU countries.

This works in both directions.

returns suggests, if labour input

is increased with a given quan-

is less productive than the

labour already employed, and

the average product per hour

As the law of diminishing

tity of capital, the extra labour valid alternative to the conti-

It is still worth creating jobs Monetary Union of Europe.

The graph shows that there

The DTI report blames too

shares with that of the UK.

Low productivity in the UK

The new DTI report says

The Government's policy is Netherlands have the highest

is not compulsory. On this and printing in the UK achieve

score the UK is doing well, as productivity higher than the G?

hold income and satisfy is due to lack of sufficient skills

workaholics, but they can have training, as Mr Brown has

family life. According to a his Green Budget. Other EU

ing hours are a more dubious much as 50 per cent lower.

The British way of working: high

employment but low productivity

to increase the employment

rate, even though it is already

relatively high. A higher em-

ployment rate tends to go with

lower unemployment. Look-

ing across countries, an em-

ployment rate one per cent

higher is apt to mean an un-

employment rate two-thirds of

long as it maintains the vol-

untary principle. Long work-

benefit. They boost house-

adverse effects on health and

1995 NOP survey, about 45 per

cent want to work a shorter

week; only 25 per cent want to

work more than 40 hours.

compared with 70 per cent

ployment has risen over the past

10 years only in line with pop-

ulation, so the employment

rate has been more or less

static. Population growth in

the UK has been 0.4 per cent

and employment growth has

been 0.5 per cent a year. Av-

erage hours worked have fall-

en in most EU countries, but

have risen 0.1 per cent a year

In the US, employment has

gone up 1.6 per cent a year -

0.5 per cent faster than the pop-

ulation increase - and working

hours 0.3 per cent a year. So an

increase of 2 per cent a year in

labour input accounts for over

half the high US growth rate of

EU average on productivity as

it is above it on labour input.

UK GDP of about \$23 per per-

Britain is as far below the

In most EU countries, em-

actually doing so.

ductivity is less than that of the a year - average for the EU -

in the UK.

3.3 per cent.

Interest Rates

Higher employment is ben-

a per cent lower.

Spot Rates

25.70 178.90 84.26 102.40 129.90 185.00 552.20 542.80 542.80 270.80 123.80 220.40

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0.uk 58.77 68.58 20.35 77.87 50.34 135.37 77.40 153.97 274.31 28.08 88.262 14.64 55.86 46.02 76.03 76.

Good luck to James Bethell, former author of this very diary column, who is helping to launch Ministry Magazine today in his capacity as head of media at the Ministry of Sound nightclub in South-east London. The warehouse-turned-rave-venue, owned by Jamie Palumbo and located in the otherwise unappealing Elephant & Castle, is launching its own "lifestyle" magazine for clubbers.

The joint venture with Dennis Publishing will kick off with a 120,000 print run. James claims they have received 5,000 subscriptions even before hitting the streets. The first issue covers everything from herbal ecstasy to the booming bisexuality scene," he enthuses. He's certainly come a long way from writing up Fyffes's interims.

The British public were nearly robbed of this unique literary event when burglars nicked all the club's computers, but thankfully not before the first issue of the mag had been put to bed, he says.

Where you or I may have just gone to a disco in our youth, dear reader, the men from the Ministry aim to spin a media empire off the original club, with radio stations, Internet sites and record companies all in various stages of development. Sadly, last weekend's press suggestions of a £20m offer by Sony to buy the Ministry's record label seem wide of the mark. However, I'm sure someone like Richard Branson will come along and snap the lot up before long.

A growing number of motorists are going "on the wagon" and not touching a drop of booze, according to figures compiled by Dial Direct, a motor insurance company. The analysis of insurance claims shows that nearly a fifth of motorists applying for cover claim to be teetotal. Good news for safety campaigners, it

But the surprise findings don't end there. Declared "non-drinkers" are making between 5 and 10 per cent more insurance claims than those car drivers who declare they enjoy the occasional tipple.

Mike Elkin, Dial Direct's marketing manager, suggests the sad explanation for these findings is that "some motorists are being economical with the truth about their drinking habits when providing information

Surely not. Make mine a treble...

Some musical chairs at the top of the drug companies. Novartis has appointed Jerry Karabelas as head of its healthcare business worldwide and chief executive of pharmaceuticals, starting next year.

Mr Karabelas, 45, currently executive vice president with SmithKline Beecham, will succeed Pierre Douaze, who will retire, Novartis said yesterday. SmithKline has recalled Howard Pien from China to replace Mr Karabelas in North America.

BUSINESS

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One thing intrigued me about this week's two-day Monetary Policy Committee meeting at the Bank of England. What did the eight members do on Wednesday evening, half way through the talks? Were they bussed to a hotel, like a trial jury, in order to guard against details leaking out? Were they simply told not to blurt anything out on the train home? Or did they all stay in the office? Did Eddie George hold a pyjama party at Thread-

My fevered imaginings were swiftly doused vesterday by a spokeswoman from the Bank, who assured me the MPC members went home as usual. "Routine confidentiality arrangements apply to all employees of the Bank.

The Committee members do go into a period of purdah (from journalists) for a week before the meeting and a day afterwards. But they are already used to dealing with all sorts of sensitive information," said the spokes-

In fact, a two-day meeting might even aid decision-making, since the members do most of the discussing on Wednesday and then have a chance to sleep on their deci-

Congratulations in advance to Ian Byatt. the water regulator, on his impending nuptials next week to Dr Dierdre Kelly, a specialist in liver diseases at Birmingham Children's Hospital. The wedding will take place in a registry office, followed by a blessing in Birmingham Cathedral, and then a honeymoon

in Dr Kelly's native Ireland. As I'm sure you know. Mr Byatt was previously married to AS Byatt, the famous author, who herself is now married to Peter Duffy, a fund manager who was formerly an editor of the Daily Telegraph's Questor ेश विचारक हैं। हैं के ब्रोक्ट merged services

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Readers' Sterling plea

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27/BUSINESS

ethell. former author nn, who is helping to se today in his capacity te Ministry of Sound A London. The ware. inc. owned by Jamie in the otherwise up. : Castle, is launching gazine for cluthers ith Dennis Publishing 1,000 print run. James ed 5.000 sub-criptions streets. "The first rank

The Monetary Policy

Committee has decided

to leave interest rates

unchanged at 7.25 per

cent. But this failed to

stop Halifax raising

yesterday afternoon.

The City breathed a sigh of re-

Bank of England's Monetary

Policy Committee (MPC) had de-

cided, at least for the time being.

to leave interest rates on hold.

director of economic analysis at

the CBI, said: "We think the de-

cision was justified by the in-

formation on the economy."

Jeremy Peat, chief economist at

Royal Bank of Scotland agreed:

"I am sure this is the correct de-

cision, Both Treasury and Bank

BA and Qantas get go-ahead

British Airways and Qantas were yesterday given the all-clear

to merge their services on the Kangaroo route between London and Australia, where the two carriers command 40 per

cent of the market. Under a deal approved by Australian

aviation authorities, BA and Qantas will code share on 310 flights a week and sell seats on each other's services. The clearance came as Qantas celebrated the 50th anniversary

of services between London and Sydney by announcing a

Steel leaders' sterling plea

Steel industry leaders yesterday issued a fresh plea to the

Government over the level of sterling, saying it had cost £1bn

in lost export orders in the last 15 months. Brian Clayton,

president of the UK Steel Association, warned this would

mean lower investment and fewer jobs and called on min-

isters to recognise the damage that an over-valued currency

told the association's annual meeting that the Government

wanted a stable and competitive exchange rate but the best

way to achieve this was to avoid the boom and bust policies

Britannia Building Society said it has decided to restructure

its life business in a move which will include the permanent

loss of 240 jobs and the phasing out of a further 180 positions but aims to ensure the group's long term profitability.

Britannia Life will withdraw from the independent financial adviser (IFA) market for new business with effect from 12 De-

cember, and its life and pensions products will be solely dis-

Stakis, the hotel and casino group, announced a 92 per cent

rise in pre-tax profits to £56m thanks to a maiden contribution

from the Metropole hotel chain it purchased for £327m last

year. Profits at its struggling casino division fell to £7.8m

(£8.9m). Stakis confirmed it was looking to invest heavily in

its casino chain after the restructuring of the division pro-

The flotation of Energis looks set to value the business phones

group next week at close to the top of indicative price range.

It would put a price of up to £962m on Energis, which is owned

by National Grid, with shares expected to begin trading at

well above 300p. Energis had previously suggested a price

BG, the former British Gas, was facing a new rift with Ofgas,

the industry watchdog, yesterday after the company raised

new risks to customers from moves to open the domestic to

competition next year. Transco, the BG division which owns

the pipeline network, said new computer systems to track

homes as they switched supplier could be hit by even minor

errors and it had no contingency plans in place to deal with

problems. Ofgas has proposed to extend competition in the

North of England from February 1998, but BG said the watch-

dog should only proceed once systems were proven to work.

Asian markets yesterday were swept with a mood of opti-

mism following the conclusion of an agreement between South

Korea and the International Monetary Fund for a rescue pack-

age which now stands at \$57bn. In Korea the market regis-

tered its biggest ever one-day gain, rising by almost 7 per cent.

The much battered South Korean currency, the won, finally

Korean market soars

Energis set for top price

New snags in gas plans

Metropole boosts Stakis

The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett.

was doing to UK manufacturing.

Britannia rethinks

tributed through the branch network.

duced encouraging results.

range of between 250p and 325p.

A\$560m upgrade of its long-haul Boeing 747 fleet.

for merged services

Sudhir Junankar, assistant

Lea Paterson reports.

mortgage rates

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managed to reverse its decline against the US dollar. COMPANY RESULTS

—·—· · · · -	Turnover £	Pre-tax É	EPS	Dividend
Albeyerast (T)	25.15m (25.4m)	0.306m (0.188m)	0.9p (0.5p)	1.5p (1.3p)
Area Relater (F)	251.9m (250.1m)	26.4m (21.5m)	70.8p (50.6p)	21.15p (19.5p)
Barracout (F)	56.1m (52.5m)	4.0m (2.72m)	7.1p (5.1p)	1. 0 p (1.5p)
Blakky (C)	23.6m (28.6m)	4.57m (6.26m)	7.8p (9.8p)	2.5p (2.3p)
Border Television (1)	7.78m (6.72m)	0.822m (1.52m)	5.2p (9.0p)	2.7p (2.7p)
Castings (I)	30.75m (29.58m)	4.71m (4.28m)	7.58p (6.68p)	1.68p (1.43p)
Ciristian Salveson (I)	355.2m (361.3m)		10.5p (12 3p)	3.9p (3.8p)
Dentry Group(F)	36.46m (33.11m)		13.5p (12.2p)	3.0p (4.55p)
Dominares (F)	16.98m (15.31m)		7.27p(4.58p)	1,92p (2.88p)
Equa Setal (I)	61.6m (49 85m)	10.03m (8.04m)	11.7p (9.5p)	3.05p (-)
BEC (I)	. 2.91m (2.94m)	442.0m (261.0m)	10.1p (5.5p)	3.43p (3.25p)
Grandities (F)	8.17b (8.97b)	834.0m (388.0)	25.1p (2.4p)	nd (·)
SUS(I)	1.50b (1.21b)	254.1m (236.8m)	17.3p (15.6p)	6.0p (5.5p)
Hanson	1.870 (-)	1.31m (-)	15.5p (-)	nii (-)
Kantin (F)	45.95m (49.78m)	2.05m (6.31m)	2.0p (5.8p)	1.2p (1.725p)
lones & Shipman (i)	9.17m (9.29m)	0.288m (0.609m)	1.0p (2.2p)	nit (-)
P. Final . in . interfere	4 550 is resuprosed	ionals *Dividend to	be paid as a FID	1

economy through 1998." Following recent signs that the economy could be slowing down, including data released yesterday suggesting a bumper Christmas on the high street the MPC's decision had been—also due to rise from 1 January. widely anticipated. But some mixed economic signals in of Business Industry seemed to tandem with last month's surprise rate rise had left the markets jittery in the run-up to Vief yesterday at news that the

yesterday's announcement. It was not all good news, though for millions of UK home-owners. Halifax anby 0.25 per cent to 8.7 per cent. Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive of Halifax, said its rate rise was a direct consequence of the Bank's decision on November 6 to increase interest

rates by 0.25 per cent. Mr Folwell said: "We deof England forecasts point to a cided not to pass on any in-

Christmas but preferred to wait to see the outcome of the December meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee." Halifax will shortly announce

Data from the Confederation support the MPC's decision. Retail sales growth slowed in November, according to the 23 per cent of retailers saying that sales were higher than at this time last year. This comnounced that, on 1 January, it pares with positive balances of will increase its mortgage rates 38 per cent for October and 26 per cent in September, "It was a weaker survey than we had expected," said economists at HSBC Markets.

> New figures on construction orders also signalled that the eagerly anticipated economic slowdown could be on its way. New construction orders

on the run.

But not all indicators are pointing in the same way. Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's Distributive Trades Survey Panel, said: "Ancedotal evidence CBI, with a positive balance of from retailers points to cautious optimism that consumers

cent higher than in November

marked slowdown in the UK crease in mortgage rates to our received by contractors in the existing customers before three months to October were I per cent lower than in the three months to July. The Engineering Employers' Federation also said yesterday that pay settlements were below the rate could be off the cards after all. details of its new saving rates, of inflation for the third month

> will spend more freely in the remaining weeks to Christmas," And although new construction orders are lower than in the three months to July, they are still running at 4 per cent higher than at this time last year. Other figures out yesterday also suggest the economy is still growing strongly. Sales of new cars last month were 12.5 per



Season of uncertainty: Surveys suggest the high street boom is slowing but some retailers still expect a bumper Christmas

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CRICKET

Hollioake finds England committed to cause

England's cricketers found a famous name from the past facing them when they launched their tour of Pakistan yesterday. Mark Baldwin reports from

Adam Hollioake glanced approvingly at the bare statistics of England's opening day "double win" in Pakistan - but positively glowed when he spotted the red-raw grazes on several play-

Hollicake is looking for total commitment from the oneday specialists picked to represent England in the Sharjah Four Nations' Tournament later this month. That commitment was evident in yesterday's defeat of a Lahore Gymkhana Club side that included Dean Headley, Ashley Giles and Matthew Fleming, as England successfully chased both the initial target of 142 and then an additional one of 282.

"The players here are, as a group, fairly young but also very hungry to do well - and that's very important," said Hollioake, the one-day captain. "I was impressed by the approach of all the

players today". Alec Stewart struck the ball beautifully in his 78 not out,

India 512

Sri Lanka 66 for i

Saurav Ganguly and Sachin

Tendulkar plundered sparkling

centuries yesterday as India

piled up the runs in the final Test

against Sri Lanka in Bombay.

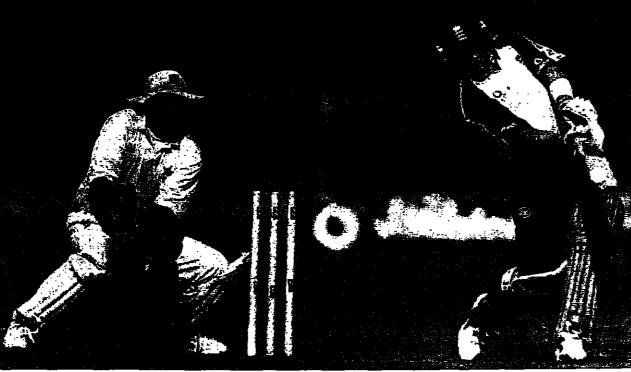
512 and then Sanath Jayasuriya

smashed 50 off 44 balls as Sri

Lanka replied with 66 for 1 from

15 overs by the close of the sec-

India were dismissed for



Alistair Brown hits out on his way to an unbeaten 67 in Lahore yesterday

Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

bustious and unconventional by the 51-year-old former Test luminary Majid Khan.

67 from only 57 balls. The Gymkhana Club, who Majid, now the Pakistan slumped to 33 for 6 against ef- Cricket Board's chief executive, fective new ball bowling by but also still a regular club Dougie Brown and Peter Mar- cricketer, came in at No 8 and tin when early morning mois- ended up unbeaten on 50. He ture made batting awkward, struck Graeme Hick's off-spin managed to reach 141 for 8 for six late on, and his appear-Nick Knight made 79 and Al- from their 40-over allocation ance was a delightful surprise istair Brown a typically rum- largely thanks to some heroics for England's tourists.

boundaries, was caught in the are against England at Leeds

148, full of strokes, during a fident of putting the Sri Lankans

record-breaking stand of 256 for under pressure over the next

way back in 1952.

"Records are meant to be

broken," said a delighted Ten-

Tendulkar leads Indian run feast

slips off the leg-spinner Anil

Kumble two overs before

stumps. Marvan Atapattu and

dulkar finally struck form with

the fourth wicket.

Robert Croft, for example, and he, like all England's playhad heard many tales about Majid's elegant contribution to Glamorgan's 1969 Champi-

onship-winning team. Off-spinner Croft, born a year later, and now of course a Championship winner himself after Glamorgan's success last summer, found himself bowling at a man still revered in Wales

3 but end up going in at eight" Tomorrow and Sunday bring 50-over matches against Pakistan A in final preparation for Sharjah, and the last couple of hours of each game will be played out under the lights of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

ers, enjoyed seeing the Old

Master give more than one

team to be flexible in its ap-

order may change around quite

a lot depending on match cir-

curnstances or conditions. Some-

one could be down to hat at No

Hollioake said: "I want this

glimpse of his rare ability.

England came to Lahore specifically to get that extra experience of floodlit cricket again with Sharjah conditions in mind – and Hollioake said that all 14 players would feature in the two matches. Pakistan A are to be led by

Test paceman Aqib Javed and will include a number of other established internationals. ONE-DAY MATCH (Lahore): Lahore Gym-khana Cub XI 141 for 8 (40 overs, Majid Khan 50no): England 283 for 4 (N V Angril 79, A Decision of the Company of the C

Yorkshire

veto more

the nightwatchman Kumara dulkar, who also surpassed the Dharmasena were together at 4.000-run mark in his 58th Test. This partnership was what the Ganguly made his highest team needed and I am happy Test score of 173 and Ten- both Saurav and I came good." The Indian captain was con-

three days. "There is still some-The partnership was India's thing in this wicket for the fast

ond day's play on the easy-paced best for the fourth wicket in Test bowlers," he said. "They will be cricket, surpassing the 212 by Vi- able to generate a lot more pace Wankhede Stadium wicket. Jayasuriya, who hit nine jay Manjrekar and Vijay Haz- and hounce." ACCOLADE TEST DRIVE

FOOTBALL

League campaign winning over Uefa

The Football League chairman, David Sheepshanks, yesterday made a final plea to Uefa to give England back a place in Europe for the Coca-Cola Cup winners - and the signs are that the League's campaign may end in victory.

Leicester City were granted a Uefa Cup place after last sea-Middlesbrough, but then European football's governing body removed it for subsequent winners - because the Premier League rejected a request to reduce their number of clubs to 18.

However, Uefa's executive committee meets in Marseilles today to discuss the issue and high on its agenda is a recom-Coca-Cola Cup winners to continue playing in the Ucfa Cup.

it has been suggested that the committee is likely to guarantee the place for a further three years, "The significance to the League and the economic futures of our clubs is crucial, which is why we have campaigned so hard over the last six months," Sheepshanks said. proach. For example our batting

The West Bromwich Albion chairman, Tony Hale, has launched an attack on Ray Harford after he walked out of The Hawthorns to take charge of Queen's Park Rangers.

Hale claims that Albion have been "used" by the former Blackburn Rovers and Wimbledon manager to rebuild his son's Coca-Cola victory over reputation after the unhappy end to his spell at Ewood Park. Harford resigned at Rovers

in October 1996, when they were languishing at the foot of the Premiership without a win in 10 matches and had been dumped out of the Coca-Cola Cup by Stockport County. But he has enjoyed success again after being given his chance by Albion, helping them avoid mendation, strongly backed by relegation last season and then the Football Association, for the moulding them into promotion contenders during the current campaign.

Hale said: "There are not enough words in the English language to describe how I feel at this moment in time.

"We have been used by Ray Harford. We resurrected his career. He was nowhere when we resurrected him.

"We have helped put him

into a position where any elim in the country would want to take him as their manager."

ialaska st

Tottenham's new chief coach, Christian Gross, is keen to sign the Swiss international striker Kubilay Türkyilmaz from his old club, Grasshopper, Zurich, Birmingham City have enquired about the veteran Rangers striker, Ally McCoist.

The out-of-favour Liverpool midfielder, Michael Thomas, is thinking over an offer to join Coventry City. Liverpool have accepted the Sky Blues £800,000 bid.

The former Borussia Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld will take over Bobby Robson's role as director of recruitment at Barcelona, according to reports in Spain yesterday.

Hitzfeld, who became technical director at Dortmund after winning the European Cup last season, has signed a preliminary agreement with Barcelona, according to the reports. Robson has hinted strongly he wants to return to coaching after stepping down as coach at the Spanish club last season and being replaced by the Dutch-

Shankly honoured in bronze

Liverpool yesterday matched cess." Manchester United's tribute to Sir Matt Busby by unveiling a statue to Bill Shankly. The simreads: "He made the people

The 7ft 6in bronze statue will stand outside the place that worshipped Shankly most, nothing," reads another. The Kop. It will also guard the entrance to the club's Liverpool Visitor Centre which was also opened yesterday by Shankly's widow, Nessie, and the widow

of Bob Paisley, Jessie. His arms stretched out in victory, the juxtaposition is apt - the man who made the modum designed to show off his

As Ebbe Dinesen, of Carls-

Inside the visitor centre, Shankly's monument is both his managerial record - three ple inscription on the plinth championships, two FA Cups and the Uefa Cup - and his words. "If you are first, you are first," reads one caption on the wall. "If you are second you are

> A third, spoken to a poor translator who was trying to open communication between Shankly, a promising xenophobe, and Italian journalists. reads: "Just tell them I completely disagree with everything

Ian Callaghan was one of going through a former Kop own likeness in a waxwork modherg, who commissioned the room, "Some of the things were statue, said: "He laid the foun- a bit far-fetched but you believed

Sixteen years after his death, dations for a mountain of suc- most of them," he said. "Shanks". believed them himself so you. tended to go along with him. He was a great man.

So, according to Shankly. were all his players, but hi - : praise always took on an extr. dimension when he spoke of hicentre-half and captain. Ros Yeats, "The Colossus" himsel cut the ribbon to unveil the stat ue yesterday at the request c Nessie Shankly and Jessie Pais ley, making no fuss, saying n words. In short, the way Shankl_" " would have wanted.

At the same time you wer struck by how things hav ----changed. The statue was drape in a sheet covered in Carlsber ern club in front of the muse- many past and present players logos, a form of advertising that would have been unhear brewery pay for a tribute to:: el of an old Antield dressing- confirmed teetotaller woul have amused him greatly.

talks over FA CUP COUNTDOWN Headingley

Yorkshire yesterday ruled out further negotiations with Headingley's owners aimed at resolving their long-running dispute and exploring the possibility of developing the Test venue.

Preliminary discussions into an application for Lottery funding to upgrade Headingley broke down on Wednesday night with Yorkshire complaining of "uncompromising tactics" by Paul Caddick, the chairman of the company which owns the ground.

The secret meeting had led to reports that Yorkshire were prepared to shelve their ambitious plans to relocate to a purpose-built stadium at Durkar near Wakefield – a project which led to Caddick issuing writs against various members of the past and present club administration claiming £17m compensation for potential lost income.

The impasse has led to Yorkshire stressing that "the litigation will continue and it will be vigorously defended by the

Northamptonshire and Worcestershire yesterday stepped up their efforts to sign Devon Malcolm following his announcement yesterday that he had rejected Derbyshire's offer of a new contract.

Despite Derbyshire's hope that they would persuade Malcolm to stay, the two counties have both held preliminary talks with the 34-year-old paceman in recent weeks after he became a free agent on November 1.

They will both intensify their efforts to win the race for his signature following yesterday's amnouncement, with Worcestershire believed to be favourites for his services. Dermot Reeve, the Somer-

set coach, plans to play one-day games for the county next season. Reeve, 34, was forced to retire from playing in 1996 because of an arthritic hip, having led Warwickshire to six trophies in the previous three

Linnets hoping for a merry day out at Millmoor

A trip to Rotherham may not seem like a glamorous day out, but for one Norfolk non-League club it is something to savour. Rupert Metcalf explains.

The last time King's Lynn beat a Football League club in the FA Cup, the directors of their vanquished Third Division opponents were so distressed by the experience that they sacked their manager. Being beaten 2-1 on home

ground in November 1961 by the Linnets, as King's Lynn are known, was the end of the road at Coventry City for Billy Frith. He was replaced by Jimmy Hill, and the Sky Blue Revolution was underway. As the Linnets' own club

history states: "Had it not been for Lynn's Cup exploits, it can be claimed that Jimmy Hill might never have become the household name he is today. KLFC have much to answer for!" On Saturday, at Milimoor,

the Norfolk club will be seeking their first share of the FA Cup headlines since those long-gone days of the early 60s. Their second-round opponents, Rotherham United, have been in impressive form in recent weeks, so a loss to the Linnets is unlikely to lead to the departure of their manager, Ronnie Moore, but it would certainly heap embarrassment and humiliation upon the

South Yorkshire club, This is because Lynn are by no means big fish in the non-League pond. They have never played in the GM Vauxhall Conference and, although they are currently riding high in the Dr Martens (Southern) League Premier Division, within the last 10 years they have nearly slipped out of the Southern into a local league.

The Walks, their spacious stadium, was passed fit for the Conference earlier this year, so there are high hopes at the 118-year-old club that they might join the non-League élite in the not too distant future. The Walks' crowd record was set in 1951, when 12,937 saw Lynn removed from the FA Cup by Exeter. They first entered the Cup in 1900, and five seasons later they reached the first round for the first time. They lost 11-0 at Aston Villa - still their record defeat in the competition.

The Linnets did not defeat a Football League club in the Cup until 1959, when they overcame Aldershot 3-1 at The Walks. They have reached the third round once, in 1962 when their win at Coventry earned them a trip to Everton. Lynn were then, not for the first or the last time, in financial difficulties, and their share of a 44,916 gate at Goodison was welcome. A 4-0 defeat did

not embarrass them, either. Before their 1-0 home win over Bromsgrove Rovers in the first round last month, their last win in the Cup proper was in 1973, when Wimbledon were beaten 1-0 at The Walks. That was not the shock result it would be today, though, for the Dons were then, as Bromsgrove are now, rival members of the Southern League.

Although the Linnets have stayed firmly out of the Cup limelight for years, their manager has not. Peter Morris steered Kettering Town to the fourth round in 1989, they beat Bristol Rovers and Halifax Town before losing to € Charlton Athletic. They also just missed out on a place in the Football League, finishing second to Maidstone United in the Conference that season.

"We're not that good yet." Morris said this week when asked if his current team could " emulate the feats of that Kettering side, "and we've got a very stiff task at Rotherham.":

Morris is one of the most & experienced managers in the non-League game. As a player he was a determined midfielder with Mansfield, Ipswich and Norwich. He began his managerial career in 1976 at '-Mansfield and has also been in charge of Peterborough, Crewe and Southend and, outside the League, Nuneaton and Boston United as well as Kettering and now the Linnets.

At The Walks Morris has built a side that displays the same honest, hard-working qualities that he showed as a player. His only player with substantial League experience is Tony Spearing, a left-back formerly with Norwich, Leicester, Plymouth and Peterborough, but several other players were rejected by League clubs and may feel they have something the Cone is the former Ipman, who could be the busiest man on the pitch at Rotherham.

For Hollman and most of his team-mates, tomorrow's trip to Millmoor will be the biggest match of their careers to date. Along with a live television audience. Morris was highly impressed by Rotherham when he travelled to Turf Moor to watch them thrash Burnley 3-0 in a first-round replay - but, as Morris said: 'There's always one shock result, and it could be us."

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29/SPORT

Zaralaska stock goes into free-fall

Festival prospects wax and wane at Leicester. but there will be no return to Aintree for last year's Grand National winner. Greg Wood reports.

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The value of an investment in ante-post markets can not only go down as well as up - it can wo evaporate completely. That Jems to be the fate of bets on Hurdle in March following his defeat in a novice event at Leicester yesterday, and even those optimists who had backed him at 16-1 for the Festival will have found little to comfort them in his performance.

One small consolation, perhaps, is that Alderbrook, another top-class Flat horse who switched codes, was also beaten early in his career over hurdies. A season later, he raced and won -twice over the sticks with the second victory coming go." The Knights Royal Hurdle

RESULTS

LEICESTER
TOTALES: 1. VENT D'AOUT (A P McCoy) 1-2
far; 2. Jazz Track 13-2: 3. Grafa Times 50-1
13 ren; 14 14. [M Pipe, Wellington). Total: £140;
£140; £150, £1250, DF: £210, £557, Time:

1.20: 1. OLIVER'S SECRET (A P McCox) 5-1 lar; 2. Jobsegoodun 6-1; 3. Man of The Mintch 6-1. 15 ran. 10, 2% (M P.pa, Welling-ton), Totac 5:50; 22:80, 52:10, 52:80. DF. 5:620. CSF: 523:27. Tro: 53:80. NF: Bank Assenue, Chardylown Chanca, Laniau. 1.50: 1. SOUTH WEST EXPRESS (W Meanter) 8-1; 2. Meanter 1. Meanter, 13, 12, 12

Marston 9-1; 2. Viscouert Tully 8-1; 3. Es-laino Kins 11-2; 4. Evezio Ruto 9-2; 16 ran. 4-1 fav Edward Seymour (5th), 2 /s, 3 /s, (0 White, Westbury On Seven), Tota: 22120; SAIQ 5250, 2120, 2180 DF: 522060 CSF: 226: 1. EDREDON BLEU (J Culoty) 8-1; 2. Chemifa Lad 4.1; 3. In Truto 9-1, 8 can

2. Citery's Lad 4-1; 3. In Truth 9-1 8 ran. 7-2 lav Rustic Air. 'A, 3' 6. (Mass H Knight, Wantage). Toke: C8.20; £140, £190, £2.40. DF: £480. CSF: £35.98. Tricast: £263.42. Tric: £680. NFI: Seod Roga. 2.50; 1. WAHIBA SANDS (A P McCoy) 11-2; 2. Zaraleska 1-5 fav; 3. Fm Meggy 20-1 10 ran: 4, 12, [J Dunlop, Arundel] Tota: £580; £10; £10, £130. DF: £140. CSF: £643. Trio:

**SL20: 1. FLEET CADET (G Supple) 4-5 Supple 4-5 Supple 4-5 Supple 4-7 Fran. 2, 30. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £170. DF: £300. CSF: £467. Jackpot: \$3975430. Placepot: £3150. Quadpot: £1230. Place 6: £3191. Place 5: £2369.

WINDSOR 12.30: 1. SHAHRUR (M A Fazgerato) 3-1 It fav; 2. Buddinch 14-1; 3. Wild Ribs 3-1): fax 18 ren. 2, 12 (G L Moors, Brighton) Tota: 62.70; 6130, 0500, 6140, DF: 61870, CSF: 54776, Trio: 53860.

how things have secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (D Galegher) 8-1; 2. Special Boat 3-1 far; 3. Persian Butterfly 8-1 7 ran, 10, 51-td. (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1.00: 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early 1. HALONA (C Morlock, Wantage); secret in Carlshell early

1.30: 1. INTO THE CLAN (4 F Tidey)

have been unhead kiy's day. To have to provide the stank of the stank

Strapper 18-1, 12 ran. 7-2 | 1 fav Come on Party, 3: %. (D O'Brien, Turbridge), Total: 5846; 5250, 5170, 6130, DF: 52350, CSF: 53597-76cast-055497. Tho: 5766.30. Placepot: 52500. Quadpot: 5820. Place 6: 27586. Place 8: 548.67.

before losing we shall be the state of the s LINGFIELD

a determined of a determined and a determined of a determined and now the Limb and now the Links of Walks Morris &

in the Champion Hurdle itself. at Ascot on 20 December may convincing was his performance bruised foot, and Terry Casey, won, to give him due credit, by Wahiba Sands, another useful recruit from the Flat - was also run at a very slow pace. which would not have suited Zaralaska, but it is still hard to believe that he could not give the winner 7lb and justify his starting price of 1-5.

"They've gone no gallop and it turned into a sprint," David Nicholson, Zaralaska's trainer, said, "But he's jumped well Zaralaska for the Champion and he will go to Kempton on Boxing Day for the novice hurdle." William Hill immediately him from their Champion Hurdle betting, while Coral introduced Wahiba Sands, who was the first ever winner over hurdles for John Dunlop, at

> "We schooled him last year and he seemed to enjoy it," Marcus Hosgood, Dunlop's assistant, said. "We did it again this time and he jumped so well that we thought we'd give it a

SANDOWN

1.00 Golden Eagle (nb)

2.05 Fujiyama Quest

1.30 Stanmore

A more realistic chance of success at Cheltenham in D"Aout, who ran away with the three-year-old hurdle and is umph Hurdle, Martin Pipe, a better chance of adding a sec-Vent D'Aout's trainer, now has ond success to his record. three in his yard who are vying for ante-post favouritism for the

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Skycab (Sandown 1.00) NB: Clifton Set (Exeter 2.25)

juvenile championship - Rainwatch and The French Furze are the others - but since Vent D'Aout is owned by the Elite Racing Club, which sponsors the Triumoh, it is fair to assume that she will take her place in the line-up next year.

The future is rather more uncertain, though, for Lord Gyllene, the impressive winner of last season's Grand National, So-

HYPERION

GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdles - Good to Soft (Good in places)

Begin trans - Good (Good in Sort in places); Hurries - Good to Soft (Good in places)
 Regin transit course with stiff lences and an uptall finet.
 Course is on A307, 4m south of Kingston. Esher station (service from London, Water-loo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub. 155, Jumor Cub. (17 - 21 yrs) 133; Grandstand. Park enclosure 14 CAR PARIK: £2 in members (More Lane), remainder free
 LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 22-75 (29.3%), J Gifford 17-127 (13.4%), J Old 1038 (26.8%). M Henderson 8-78 (10.1%).

● LEADING THANEIS; D NECTOSION 22-75 (25.5°s), S GRIBBIN 17-27 (25.5°s), N Henderson 8-79 (01°s).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 22-81 (27.2°s), A Maguine 19-77 (24.7°s), A P McCoy 11-59 (18.6°s), G Bradley 9-76 (17.8°s).

■ FAVOURITIES: 120 wrs. in 314 races (38.2°s),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME; Dantes Cavalier (130), Fulfyama Crest (2.05)

2.35 Redeemyourself

3.10 SAMLEE (nap)

3.40 Nemisto

DECEMBER 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS

D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,152

4022-1 DINES (27) (D) (T Chappel T Curry D Nichols S.J Blackwell) P Nichols S Ti 4 . T J Murphy

1 4022-1 DINES (27) (D) (T OrappelT CurryD NetroteSJ Backwell) P Netrols 7 4.7 J Murphy
1/1 ROWINGTON (41) (D) (Mrs. Jane Lane) D NetroteSJ Backwell) P Netrols 7 4.7 J Murphy
3 0-0 ASK IN TIME (21) (Darren C Mercen Mes H Kinghi 5 10 ... J Culloty
4 500 BOLD ROMEO (580) (Cueen Elzabeth) N Herdesson 5 11 0 ... J R Kanvanigh
5 02 BORDONIO (503) (Mis Philippa Cooper C Brooks 5 11 0 ... J R Kanvanigh
6 28 BRACEY RIM (844) (BF) (Doublepmit J J Did 7 11 0 ... C Liewellyn
7 20-02 BRUSH Me LIP (13) (Mrs. C A Welses) P R Webber 5 11 0 ... R Thermion (3)
8 CHICAGO CITY (S N J Embraces) J Gellerd 4 11 0 ... O Burrows (S)
9 0-COOL NORMAN (942) (214) (Mrs. D Wanglan) B De Haan 5 11 0 ... R Demmootly
10 51-C COUNTRY BEAU (23) (D) (BF) (Mrs. J) Pepparity J King 5 11 0 ... R Demmootly
11 DERRY'S GLORY (F R Hedget) P Hedget 5 11 0 ... Mr H Dundop (7)
12 5055- BIBANGO (269) (J L Ourtho) 5 11 0 ... Mr H Dundop (7)
13 42 GOLDEN EAGLE (28) (Peter Otificial) N Henderson 5 11 0 ... Mr H Dundop (7)
15 24 GREAT STUFF (890) (L) bands Bloodsock) C Brooks 6 11 0 ... Mr H Dundop (7)
16 34 GREAT STUFF (890) (L) bands Bloodsock) C Brooks 6 11 0 ... D Bridgwater
17 34 SIMONS CASTLE (29) (7) (BF) (Mrs. B Marchard) R Osilwan 4 11 0 ... A P McCoy
18 4-5 SKYCAB (23) (P H Bests (Hotings) Lind J Gelford 5 11 0 ... D Bridgwater
19 0 SMARTY (20) (Mrs. T Brown) Mrs. J Pinner 4 10 ... D Leely
20 0 LUCYS RED SLEPPER (247) (F M. Carell A Ranel 6 10 9 ... C Rec (7)
21 GREAT STUFF (890) (L) Control Control

Rowlington promises to be above average at this jumping game - as was Pollenton, the sire of his dam. Cherry Crest. David Nicholson got him back in working order at Worcester six weeks ago (easy win from bad opposition) after the problems since a bumper win on the same course over two years earlier. This abviously rates a stemer test of his ability. GOLDEN EAGLE could be take this on his hundles debut after showing promise in bumpers. Fourth of 20 to Billy Box here last March, he reappeared a forthight later to run Country Beau to a length at Newbury. He is 7b worse off with Leff King's charge but appeals as the type to do even better over hundles. That form with Country Beau is decent, bearing in mind that Archo Camper, second to Country Beau at Kempton, went on to fill second to Florida Pearl at Cheltenham and then won at Punchestown. Country Beau has had a recent run – favourite when second to Cherrymore at Newbury last monthiso holds an obvious chance fitness-wise. The ex-irish bumper horse Dines will find this tougher after the Wincanton win from Tree Creeper on a taster surface. Strycab is reported smart and takes on Country Beau again after finishing 13 lengths behind him at Newbury.

1.30 P& O DEVELOPMENTS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,065

12.40 Gunner B Special 1.10 Seahawk Retriever

1.40 Distant Storm 2.15 New Leaf 2.45 Laredo

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand course with 300yd rur-in.

Recocurse is north of city on A49. Hereford rail station is one rife sway. ADMISSION: Club £3: Tatlersalls £3: Course Enclosure £5. Accompanied under-tes free. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 33-65 (347%), N Twiston-Davies 28-94 (227%), N Handerson 14-30 (467%), P Hobbs 13-58 (22%)

LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald 11-48 (229%), J R Kavanagh 10-57 (725%), B Fenton 7-28 (25%), R Johnson 6-74 (81%).

FAVOURITES: 200-507 (394%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Operatio (215).

12.40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 2m 1f

ner B Special, Welch Spinner, Atterlich, 14-1 Mearlow Dancer, 16-1 Phrose, 25-1 Roc Age

HEREFORD

3.20 Toskano 3.50 Tim French

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Yesterday's contest - which was be his next stopping-off point. at Aintree in April - he beat his trainer, could well send him Suny Bay, last Saturday's Hennessy winner, by 25 lengths -March seems to be held by Vent that he would surely have won even under top weight, and no other National winner since now a 16-1 chance for the Tri- Red Rum has appeared to have certainly make his debut worth

> who is owned by Stan Clarke. Zena Brookshaw, wife of the gelding's trainer, Steve, said: "Steven, Mr Clarke and the vets Ovilene's prospects for the 1998 Grand National and have decided that, though they are very pleased with his progress. they will not take the risk this

young horse." Another Grand National his intended reappearance in Jockey Club discipline yesterthe Rehearsal Chase at Chep- day, when he was banned for 30 stow tomorrow, but his problem days (9 December- 3 January)

instead to the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock a week later. His possible opponents there include The Grey Monk and Simply Dashing, which would the wait.

The Rehearsal is, in theory, Yesterday, however, it was a dry run for the Welsh National confirmed that Lord Gyllene. at Chepstow just after Christmas, but with Rough Quest will not run at all this season. having already frightened off any worthwhile opposition, the latest renewal has rather lost its simificance. Instead, punters have further discussed Lord yesterday wanted to back Samlee, a runner at Sandown today. and he is now 8-1 (from 14-1) in the ante-post betting.

Another leading candidate. meanwhile, will be without his year with his being still such a regular partner if he lines up on 27 December, Timmy Murphy, who would have ridden Belwinner, Rough Quest, will miss mont King, felt the full force of is no more serious than a at Portman Square, London.



Wahiba Sands takes the last flight on his way to upsetting Zaralaska at Leicester. Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

27: C BENGERS MOOR (265) µ A lowruh and P Nenots 6 in 0 in 12: E DANTES CAVALIER (10) (WHI Core ID Gardoto 7 in 0 655-40 SMHOGLER'S POINT (LISA) (16) M/s V R Hoare) J Endger 7 in 0 F223-1 WISE KING (24) (Dens Meno) J Col 7 in 0 BETTING: 15-8 Dantes Cavaller, 3-1 Wise King, 7-2 Bengers Moor, 5-1 Stammore, 6-1 Amlah, 20-1

Smuggler's Point 1996 Potter's Bay 7 tt 7 A Magure 3-7 lay (D Nicholson) 2 ran 50 cm 6 minute

1996 Potters Say 7 11 7 A Magure 2-7 to 10 Nothoson 2 ran FORM GUIDE. It could be relevant that Royal Event won at Southwell on Wednesday after two runs and Dantos Cavalian is the same type from the yard after appearing at Exeter and Huntingdon Paped by Lord Rookle at Huntingdon with the rest well beaten of t Dantes Cavalian now has the binhors on to the first time, but he did beat Lord Rookle ten lengths. also now has the blinkers on for the first time, but he ad best Land Recible ten lengths over furdies at Policestone last season Winner of a hot bumper at Amtree from Ashwell Boy on the day Royal Athlete wan the National, Dantes Cavalier could still be worth opposing at the short lodds so BENGERS MOOR is worth the bet on his debut over requision lences Bengers Moor won three times in points from five attempts. Lack of a previous run hasn't stopped plenty of his horses this season and Bengers Moor could well outstay Dantes Cavalier today Wise King should love this tip on his chasing debut after winning with a big weight over hundles at Newbury on his reappearance. With out in the ground, he would not be without a chance and is pretented to last ground wither Amiliah and last-ground Cheltonham handicap winner Stammore Selection: BENGERS MOOR

2.05 BOVIS CROWNGAP WINTER NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £9,375

2 (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £9,375

1 100-F1 BRACKENHEATH (14) Lutin Grist D Grisel 6 ft 4 ... A P McCoy
2 ft-ft ModSY MINER (13) Mrs. Ft J Shart D Nicholson 5 ft 4 ... A P McCoy
3 FP-296 CHERRYMAT (26) Hrs. Ft J Shart D Nicholson 5 ft 4 ... A Magnin
4 FLIRYAMA CREST (13) (Roger Barres) N Henderson 5 ft 0 ... This Magnin
5 333-HP MYSICAL FUN (14) (A G Backmare) A Backmare 6 ft 0 ... D Gallagher
6 F3 PROSPERO (19) Mrs. Gaynor Stutint Mrs. A Penalt 4 ft 0 ... R Dunwoody
7 23-C RELATIVE CHANCE (15) (CD) (Mss. S Dougles-Penars) J King 8 ft 0 ... R Dunwoody
8 ft 22 SONG OF THE SWORD (19) (Laby Loyd Wictbert J Cut 4 ft 0 ... R Dunwoody
9 450-C MADAM MRCK (10) (The Co-optimiss) N Testion-Davies 6 ft 9 ... J Cultory
6 BRITING: 11-8 Noisy Miner, 7-2 Folygama Crest, 5-1 Song Of The Sword, 6-1 Prospero, 10-1 Brack-enheath, 12-1 Cherrynud, 14-1 Religible Chance, 16-1 Madam Muck, 66-1 Physical Fun
1996 Yahm 6 ft 4 J Osborne 4-1 (J Old) 6 ran
FORM GUIDE
David Nicholson's Jack Tanner was beaten at 4-1 on m this race last year and the transer saddles his unbeaten Noisy Miner against Nick y Henderson's FILINYAMMA CREST over a stayer's trip which will suit the latter after a debut run at Ascoti behind Zaralaska. Bought out of Michael Stoutes yard for 65,000gns. Funyama Crest will always be remembered as the Inal leg of Franke Detton's golden day at Ascoti. That hundles run a torright ago was Funyama Crest fest during since and this stulf y character, a confirmed strayer, will come on a bundle. He lost his place when the pace quickened at Ascot, but he got going egain on the turn for home and it was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was the limit at will was a performance that gave a limit that it will was a performance that gave a limit that it will be a suckn ing again on the turn for home and it was a performance that gave a hint that a win when he was put over a longer top. With two bumper wins on the tast ground las year. Noisy Miner has done nothing wrong with hurdle wins at Chepstow and Antiree. The opposition hoshs been that good but Noisy Miner has won in style and has a lawountes chance now has stepped up in distance Winning point-to-pointer and notice chaser Chengring a back over hurdles after his suith to Senor El Bernath at Chettenham. There must be doubts about him hawng the pace, while Brackenheath is in a stronger race after beating Decyborg at Ascot. Song Of The Sword was a better than Prospero on their fast-ground form behind Tidal Force at Cheltenham.

Selection FUJIYAMA CREST

2.35 BOVIS LELLIOTT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £9,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £6,652

1.10 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 3f

43P-23 JASON'S BOY (2) (BF) J M Bradey 7 11 10 R Johnson 3-33331 SHERWOOD BOY (4) (C) K Baley 8 11 6 P Hentey (3) 700-45 SENSE OF VALUE (7) J Smith 8 11 3 Jer O McPhull (7) 233-61 SEAMAWK RETRIEVER (16) (CD) P Nichols 8 11 3

P-5036 SANDS POINT (22) C Pophern 7 10 0 . . . B Powerl B

Minimum weight: 10st. True handloap weight; Sands Point 9st 10tb.
BETTING: Evens Seahanik Retrievens, 5-2 Sherwood Boy, 100-30 Jason's Boy, 12-1 Sands Point, 25-1 Sense Of Value

1.40 INNPLAN INSURANCE AMATEURS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)

moramum strates (25) E.L. James 5 70 11
Miss S. Samworth (7)
24294 MARGI BDO (11) M Sheppard 4 10 8 hir O McPhail (7)
54U/6 EZZY'S BOV (17) S Medic 9 10 6 hir J Rees (7)
464-PO COMEONUP (11) J M Bradley 6 10 1 hiss 9 Roberts (7)
57217 LADY CLARRIA (551) S Brookshaw 7 30 0 Mr P Costello (7)
50494 THE FENCE SHRINKER (125) D McCan 6 10 0 hir C Labo (7)

/0002- IRISH PERRY (354) T Morton 10 10 0 Mir G Lake (7) 400-40 POCONO KNIGHT (85) C Jones 7 10 0 Miss A Dudley (7) - 14 declared - 14 declared - 15 (1) 14 declared - 16 (1) 15 (1) 16 (1) 17 (1) 18 (1) 1

FORM GUIDE

Rodoemyourself locks the assured favours after the Assot showing behind Simply Dashing, but ARFER MOLE can beat not despite the return from an obsence. After Mole came to hand first time up last season when begang Second Call at Towcester and followed up over this course and distance from Europy. He found it fought under a big penelty against Tenens at Huntingdom on his final start, but help be fresh again today and the ground is spot on for him. An early mistake stopped Redeemyourself in the hot Ascot handicap won by Simply Dashing, but he was notice naming on well in the closing stages. This use file of the property wan by Smply Dazing, but he was notes norming on well in the dosing stages. This useful sort will come on a lot for the run and he won in style over fences at Newbury on his
only start last season. An Prince is always lively to that a lew and this he dot at Kempton
last time when third of four furshers to Super Tactics after his tirst-tence departure here
when favouritie in the race won by Philip's Woody. At his best on fast ground Philip's
Woody had his ground that day when beating Red Beas ten lengths and, white has only
a pound worse with this rival, he still focks worth opposing on this softer surface. Mileter Drum is another who prefers a faste: surface and even with his Huntingdon winner
partner Richard Durwoody aboard, he looks beatable with the big weight. Oatis Regrets
has had his problems and this geiding, raced just twice last season, faces a stem test
on his reappearance.

Selection, ARFER MOLE

BOVIS EUROPE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £9,500 added 3m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £6,359 mi-P BUCK JAKES (USA) (26) (BF) (Accele Series) 7 Forster 9 (20 ... M A Rizgerald B 16-35 INCHCALLLOCH (20) (CD) (BF) (F J Certer) J King 8 (0 7 ... R Dumwoody 157-12 WHAT A HAND (20) (F A Borss) P North 9 (10) (F A Borss) P North 9 (10) (A Borss

- s occared - s occared - s occared - - s occared - - s occared -

BETTING: 5-4 What A Hand, 5-4 Samile, 5-2 Inchcallloch, 10-1 Buck, takes 1956 inchcalloch 7 in 7 C Maxie 4-6 far IJ kerg. 4 rat.

FORMI GUIDE

INCHCAILLOCH won this last year from just three rivals who were all out of the hand-cap proper. That was his fourth win on the course and Jeff King goes for the race again with Richard Durwoody booked. The gating has got to do better than he did at Cheltenham last time when a long may behind What A Hand, but he ran well at Presibury until clouting the third last. Cheltenham would never be inchcalloch's ideal course and, with a bit more emphase on toe today, he can surprise What A Hand. A star pointer for Richard Barber and a decent chaser when with Edward O'Grady in heland. What A Hand stays all day and this stamma test on ground more suitable than at Cheltenham offers her every hope after that second to Barijo. Samilee is another out-end-out slayer who won at Antree from Court Melody. But he did finish a long way behind inchcalloch in won at Antree from Court Melody But he dd finish a long way behind inchcalloch in Bertone's race at Ascot beforehand, while American chaser Buck Jakes is again auto-matic top weight on the nun-up to a bit at the Grand National Selection: INCHCALLOCH

3.40 TOLL HOUSE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,814 KARABURAN (Mrs Helen Ms) = Preios 11 3 LIMERTON TO CHARLES TO CHERTON TO STATE TO STATE TO CHARLES TY (PS3) (The Sporting Picts) S Dow 11 3 D Bridgester MIDNIGHT WATCH (USA) (PS3) (P Winknorth 7 Winknorth 13 J J Minghly NEWSTO (PS0) (The Nematic Parinestro) Miss H Anghr 11 3 J Culloty SHADIANN (F42) (Michael Blab burn 6 John Bown P Minghly 11 3 R Dumwoodly SHARP TEMPER (F62) (Mincre 5 J Brackurs) N Twistin-Daves 11 3 L C Lievellyn 22 TOUGH ACT (20) (Mr. R Doe) Mr. R Parinettin 1 M. A Razgerold 12 declared 1

- 12 declared BETTING: 3-1 Green Power, 7-2 Running De Cersy, 4-1 Shadiann, 5-1 Harmony Hall, 6-1 Tough
Act, 12-1 Majesty, Nemisto, 16-1 Ludo, Middight Watch, Sharp Temper, 20-1 Karaburan, Guilder
1996 Far Dawn (USA) 3 11 7 C Maude 5-2 (Vrs. A Perest) 17 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
SHADIANN looks interesting with Richard Dunwoody up after the switch from Luca Curran's stable Bought for 32:000gns. Shadiann looks the type to shine first time up and he gets 10to from Running die Certey, who found it tougher at Newbury with his penalty when besten 12 lengths by Supply And Demand, James Fanshawer nins two — the newconfer Green Power with Adnah Magne booked and Harmony Hall, who was close behind Tough Act when third to Misty Cay at Huntingdon, Green Power ran in the better races on the Fiel and is a live-wire in this finale.

Selection: SHADIANN

3.20 KINGS CAPLE NOVICE H'CAP CHASE

(CLASS F) 24,000 added 3ff 11 Toyds

0:33) NDIAN DELIGHT (273) M pp 7:20 C Mauda

50:21 TOSKAND (51) (CD) D Wikims 5 ft 13 Mr S Durack (5)

0:49-1 LAURENS TREESURE (CD) kts S Wikims 6 ft 9 W Marston

19:79- OVER THE WREAIN (275) J ft hugges 10 ft 2 G Hogan (5)

0:60:41 BOURNEL (25) C Barwel 9 ft 9

19:79- OVER THE WREAIN (275) J ft hugges 10 ft 2 G Hogan (5)

0:60:42 BOURNEL (25) C Barwel 9 ft 9

19:79- SAMMORELLO (13) (CD) N Testing-Cases 6 ft 12 T Jeniss

0:50:40 HIT THE FAN (731) N Testing-Cases 8 ft ft ... II Johnson

19:79: MARNET (GOSSIP (36) ft Alber 7 ft 4 Mr / Tizzand (5)

19:79-15 BALLYGRIFTIN LAD (13) S T (25 Costen 8 ft 0 ft ... II Johnson

19:70: MARNET (ODSSIP (36) ft Alber 7 ft 4 Mr / Tizzand (5)

19:70-16 BALLYGRIFTIN LAD (13) S T (25 Costen 8 ft 0 ft Mr / Tizzand (5)

- 10 declared

- 10 declared

Minimum accept 10% Top acceptable weight Ballygnifin Lad 9st 10th
BETTING 9-4 Tostann, 4-1 Sammer8b. 5-1 Lauren's Treasure, 6-1 Market Gassp. 7-1 Ballyedward, 8-1 Indian Delight, 20-1 Hi The Fan, Bournel, 33-1 others

3.50 SHEPHERDS MEADOW NH FLAT RACE

E.B.F. 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE

(CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

RUGBY UNION

Doubts over Scots' hooker and lock

Scotland's build-up to tomorrow's international with South Africa at Murrayfield was further disrupted yesterday, with two more players in danger of missing the match through

The lock Stewart Campbell and hooker Grant McKelvey were both forced to miss training with what were described as "nigoling injuries" and a decision on their participation will be made today.

Campbell is struggling with a calf strain picked up after the defeat by Australia, while McKelvey has a recurrence of an Achilles tendon problem that delayed his comeback earlier this season.

The Scots are already without the long-term injured Tom Smith, two other Lions in Doddie Weir and Alan Tait as well as the winger James Craig.

The Scotland coach, Richie Dixon, said: "We've had our injury troubles this week and it is very frustrating for everyone. But we will not take chances. If they are not 100 per cent fit we won't expose them to the rigours of international rughy."

The Watsonians lock Stuart Grimes, left out of the 21 named on Thursday, took Campbell's place as the squad ran through their training drills yesterday and he would step in for his second appearance after being a half-time replacement against Australia.

If McKelvey has to withdraw, Gordon Bulloch - the captain of both West of Scotland and Glasgow District - will step up from the bench for his international debut.

The South Africa stand-off, Henry Honiball, has been ruled out because of a knee injury he sustained against England.

Honiball, who has played in all four Tests on tour, will be replaced by the Free State No 10. Jannie de Beer, who made his debut against the Lions earlier in the year and now has six caps to his name.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos given boost by Timu signing

London Broncos have stepped up their rebuilding for next season, making their most eyecatching capture so far with the signing of the New Zealand Test centre and former All Black, John Timu.

The double international has been a regular in Kiwi sides since switching codes with the Australian club Canterbury in 1995. It was his two late tries, for instance, that beat Great Britain in the first match of last vear's Test series.

Newly promoted Huddersfield have been given permission to talk to St Helens' prolific 20year-old winger, Danny Arnold. who is unsettled because of a dispute over pay.

Castleford have transferlisted their centre, Grant Anderson, while Featherstone's former Great Britain Academy international, Darren Hughes. has announced his intention of retiring at the age of 23 after rejecting a new contract.

Clubs have been told that they will not be penalised financially if they choose not to field teams in the Alliance competition next season.

The Rugby League is in court in Leeds today trying to lift an injunction preventing it from considering Keighley's membership and funding for next season. The League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay. has said that Keighley - who hope to announce new financial backing today - will be allowed to take part, but the question of their cash allocation has still to be decided.

-- Dave Hadfield

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}	THE INDI	PENI	DENT
	RACING	SERV	ICES
	0891	26 ¹	1 +
	LIVE COMMEN	TARIES	RESULTS
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'	EXETER	973	983
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de that displays nesi. hard-work 100hot Sports The 100 most popular

sports sites on the Internet:

v sporting-life com but, as short to the world wide web EXETER

12.50 it's Wallace 1.20 Indian Run 1.50 Boardroom Shuffle 2.25 Clifton Set 2.55 Supreme Charm 3.30 Sadler's Realm

GOING: Soft Right-hand, undulating course. Stiff lences, stiff test of stamms. Run-

in of 250yos.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Faddock P.O. Säver Ring ES (accompanied under 16s free) CAR PARK: \$2 on rails; \$2 members; remainder free

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 87-254 (254%) Miss H Knight 33-109 (303%).
P Hobbs 24-122 (187%), R Froat 16-733 (12%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: C Maude 14-80 (15%), M A Fitzgerald 13-100 (15%). P Holley 12-61 (187%), B Powell 9-152 (189%).

ALINKERED FIRST TIME: Up The Tempo (120).

12.50 CHILDCRAFT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) 22,600 added 2m 2f

-22THA LORD NETROGEN (BS) (C) B Lieuwillyn 7 H 12 . PO452- MADAM'S WALK (214) N T Davies 7 11 10 M Keighley (6) L Aspell 4504-6 SWAN STREET (NZ) (74) E L James & 10 6 D Salter B PPP-35 QUEEN OF THE SUR (15) N Machel 8 00. Sophie Mitchel AOOP-0 ACHRL PRINCE (IRE) (15) N Ayine 6 100 ... M Criffiths. T Dascombe B - 9 declared -

weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Ousen Of The Sun Sci 13to. Achdi Princa Minimum weight: 16st. Two handscap weights: Queen Of the Stat Str 15th, Faster under Set 55t, Tellspin 8st 12th. BETTING: 5-2 Lord Witnigen, 3-1 Mademis Walk, 4-1 Province, 9-2 Sanft, 7-1 its Wallace, 14-1 Swen Street, Queen Of The Suit, 50-1 others

- 14 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True nandicap weight hist Perny 9st 10b, Pocono Anght
9st 7b, Sweeth Disposed 8st 12b
BETTINGS 9-8 Bernjikms, 3-1 Gutendige, 4-1 Distant Storm, 8-1 Margi Boo,
10-1 Sunley Secure, 12-1 Emperor Buck, 14-1 Lady Clarina, 16-1 Hotspur
Street, 25-1 Ezzy's Boy, 33-1 others 1.20 A.L.C. DOUBLE GLAZING SELLING HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS G) £3.000 added 2m 2f 431(24 INDIAN RUN (18) (D) (BF) 9 Hooges 6 © 0 F35/F3 SHIMBA HILLS (23) G McCourt 9 11 ©

6-6054 GLEN MIRAGE (13) M Coombe 12 11 5 30FOLL COLETTE'S CHOICE (273) G Ham 9 17 (230603 NORTHERN OPTIMIST (16) (D) B Lewelen 9 10 6 Miss E J Jones (7) 23:34P COOL WEATHER (16) C Popham 9:10:3 20:37P UP THE TEMPO (30) P Forrel 8:10:2 63:54P SILENT GUNS (NZ) (8) G Edwards 9:11 55:530 POOH STICK (30) R Frost 7:10:1 PUPUS CHARLES QUAKER (17) M Salarrar 7:10:0

2.15 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) 25,000 2m 3f

2001-2 NEW LEAF (19) D Gandon's 10 °C P Niver
5 200-0 PERETTO (15) Mrs Noto 7 °C W Marson B
6 0P-2 STAGE FRIGHT (505) F Nurphy 6 °C W Marson B
7 2361-5 BRIDEPARK ROSE (15) (C) M Nuggerdge 9 °C °C Maude
8 9P-2 ROWMING (11) P Nushris 10 °C Miss E Lames (7)
8 declared
BETTING: 4-5 Ground Nut, 5-2 Lord Micharrough 4-1 New Leaf, 16-1 Operatio, 20-1 Stage Fright, 25-1 Bridepark Rose, 66-1 others

2.45 WIDEMARSH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 3f 110yds

BRAMBLEHILL DUKE (19) (BF) D Nacholson 5 10 12

A Johnson 5 (19) (BF) S Browshaw 6 to 2 | P Henley (3) (10) JUST JM (270) T Ready 5 to 2 | Michael Brevnan (3) Mr 0 Michael Brevnan (3) Mr 0 Michael Brevnan (3) (10) LATCHFORD (26) Wildiams 5 to 2 (10) LATCHFORD (26) LATCH

43- CALLINDOC (291) J R Hugnes 7 to 7 R Guest 43-P0 DONNERIA (10) F Jordan 6 10 7 D Byrne 004/ SOUTHWICK PARK (606) M Sheppard 5 to 7 B Powell

BETTING: 6-4 Bramblehill Duke, 9-4 Cail De Sac, 4-1 Laredo, 15-2 Tonka. 10-1 Macy, 20-1 Dragon King, 25-1 Callindoe, 33-1 Latchford, Belerus, 50-1

1-11 LAREDO (13) N Chance 4 II 5 00-80 ALTHREY PILOT (15) F Peacock 6 10 12 50 BELARUS (196) Mrs I Mohe 5 10 12 1-14 BRAMBLEHILL DURKE (19) (BF) D Nacholso

SUMMITT (F902) Mass Culorrisey 6 10 12 32-20 TONKA (15) D Gardollo 5 10 12

(40-12) GROUND NUT (13) (CD) R Sussier 7 Ti 5 00P-PP JEMARO (16) W Jenks 6 to 12 13073- LORD MCMURROUGH (206) (D) J Neville 7 To 12

0261-2 NEW LEAF /191 // Gandotto 5 10 to

Minamum weight 10st Time handscho weights Charles Qualier 9st 8to BETTING: 9-4 Indian Run, 9-2 Silent Guns, 5-1 Shimba Hills 6-1 Pooh Sück, Glen Mirage, 14-1 Cool Weather, 16-1 Charles Qualier Northern Optimist. Up The Tem-

po, 20-1 Colette's Choice 1.50 CHILDCRAFT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 2f

20P-P ARTISTIC PLAN (15) R Alber 5 tt 6 mn F BOARDROOM SHIFFTLE (13) (0) (BF) 10-00-00-00 L Aspet (1)
POSE PENNYMOOR PRINCE (273) R First 8 TI 0 J Frost
PP0-2 CAMILLAS LEGACY (15) H Care 6 If 9 D Salter (5)

- 4 declared -BETTING, 1-8 Boardroom Shuffle, 13-2 Camilla's Legacy, 14-1 Pennymoor Prince.

2.25 A.L.C. WINDOWS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 7f 110yds 4351 4 BRAVE HIGHLANDER (15) 3 Settler 9 to 12 3 C.: CLIFTON SET (13) (Nam 6 # 10

403P PENNCALER (IRE) (17) Frotts 7 17 4565 7 STEEPLE JACK (22) (D) & Bishup W 65 Minimum weight 1001 It.s. handings Weight Snepe Jack 9519 C BETTING 3-1 Pennicilet 100-30 Mahwood Castle, 4-1 Brave Highlander 9-2 Chiton Set, 6-1 Special Account, 7-1 Steeple Jack, 16-1 Venyvel

(QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2m 2f 66 GLEVUM (16) 1.1. sco-Laines 5 °C 9 C SANDANTE (16) ⊃ Bucher 6 °C 9 - 11 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Supreme Charm, 9-4 transs, 5-1 Wisston Run. 13-2 Benefit-In-Kind, 12-1 Not For Parrot, 16-1 Osswellunganswell, Glevum, 25-1 Derby Gillchreest, 33-1

A.L.C. CONSERVATORY H'CAP HURDLE 3.30 (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 2f נו מין ב COLONEL BLAZER (15) (CD) 45s H korços 5 יו יוס Mr A Windle (7 HE 33 THE FLYING DOCTOR (21) G 5245/0 7 THE 05 0 F MUSICAL MONARCH (17) (CD) N Haves 11 Tf 4 23-72 SADLER'S REALM (8) (BF) F Hoose 4 Tf 4 A Thornton R Greene E Sophe Michell (5) Pain - ALICE'S MIRROR (21) (D) • 5 5000 5 TO 3 DECC 2 WALTER'S DESTINY (31) C M2742 5 TO 3 - 7 declared -Minimum weight. 10st. True minimum weights: Alice's Monte Stal 10th, Walter's Des

BETTING 7-4 Sadiers Realm, 7-2 Colonel Blazer, 4-1 Alxa's Murot, 9-2 The Fly ing Doctor, 6-1 Walters Destiny, 20-1 Musical Monarch, 33-1 Diolo

for the Welsh National vesterday. Coral: 7-1 Barijn Cyborgo 8-1 Indian Tracker, 9-1 Eudipe. 10-1 Belmont hing Giventime 12-1 Bels Life Cetic Accey, Lively Kinght, Mudahm, Sam-lee 14-1 Av Shot Buckhouse Boy Call it A Day, General Worle, Groentif Tare Away Kamikace 16-1 others

J Magee (3) B A Thomson MALIWOOD CASTLE (199) (D) (BF) RAME 1 (CE) SPECIAL ACCOUNT (188) (D) (D) C SAWAT T C C SUCC VERWEL (CZE) (290) J Neville 6 (D) C 8 Fento @ Cyburgo was backed from 8-1 to 7-1 with Coral Spain's Fernando Hierro (left) challenges Brazil's Ronaldo during yesterday's gala match in Marseille:

Photograph: Eric Gaillard/Reuters

ENGLAND'S OPPONENTS

Three Lions to face three uncertainties

A fortunate draw for Gienn Hoddle's men? They may think so, but, as Guy Hodgson explains, two of the teams are capable of brilliance.

were first announced one team looked weaker than the others. As Glenn Hoddle was crossing his fingers before last night's draw, it is a fair guess he hoped he would he paired in the group headed by.

Not that the Romanians lack ability - Gheorghe Hagi and Marius Lacatus will have few equals in the tournament - but their age will count against them. Euro 96 was supposed to be the last hurrah for world-class status for another action." two years is asking much.

Hagi will be 33 in France while Lacatus, who scored the first goal in the Europe versus Rest of the World match last night, will be 34. At 29, Ilie Dumitrescu, the former Tottenham player, almost represents a youth policy within the team.

Coached by Anghel Ior-

ed States fours years ago but flopped in England, losing all three of their matches.

seemed an unlikely prospect romped through qualification When the World Cup seeds to finish 10 points ahead of the Republic of Ireland with an unbeaten record, scoring 37 goals and conceding only four in 10 matches. "They are a formidable team," Mick Mc-Carthy, the Irish manager said after losing in Bucharest. "On their day, they can beat anvone."

As the statistics suggest. Jordanescu is a lover of attacking football and is prepared to take risks. "Whoever tries to understand my tactics," he said, "must realise I often the team: to extend their reach my decisions by gut re-

Skilful, temperamental and as likely to be ordinary as brilliant, fatigue can drag the Romanians down and England are probably happier to face them in their second match, in Toulouse on 22 June, when their legs will be wearier.

The countries have met nine times previously and England have lost only once, danescu, whose nickname is in 1980. Ominously, that was

"The General", they reached in a World Cup qualification the quarter-finals in the Unit- match. Their last match was at Wembley three years

While England will know Then, reaching France a lot about the Romanians and anything they lack they but instead of struggling they can get from McCarthy their other opponents are less familiar. Newcastle's Faustino Asprilla is a known commodity, of course, but Colombia are a difficult side to assess. Tipped by Pele to win the World Cup in 1994 they lost all three of their group games. and the campaign had a tragic aftermath in that one of their players, Andres Escobar, was subsequently murdered.

ago, which was a 1-1 draw.

A team ranked ninth in the world cannot be dismissed, however, and any side that can partner Asprilla with Carlos Valderrama has the potential to score goals. They, rather than Romania, might prove to be England's most difficult opening opponents.

Tunisia are unlikely to fill that role. They pose England's first test but look likely to be the whipping boys in qualification. This will be only their second appearance in the World Cup proper and despite being ranked 23rd in the world, they will probably repeat their first-round exit of 1978.

SCOTLAND'S OPPONENTS

Champions provide ultimate test for Brown

Last night's draw pitted Scotland against familiar opponents. Phil Shaw reports.

So the anthem of the Tartan Army's qualifying campaign proved prescient indeed. Scotland are "going to Gay Parec" - to the new Stade de France in the suburb of St Deais though if the fantasies of their followers had been fully realised it would have been for the last game of France 98, the final. rather than the opening match against the world champions.

Scotland and Brazil are no strangers to World Cup combat. They met in Frankfurt in 1974, when Willie Ormond's er rather than later. side had the better of a 0-0 draw, and again at Seville in 1982, a match remembered chiefly for the long-range David Narey goal which gave Jock Stein's team the lead before Zico, Oscar, Eder and Falcao beat Alan Rough.

They were also paired in the 1990 finals in rain-lashed Turin. Muller, on as a substitute, beat Jim Leighton eight minutes from time to ensure that Scotland failed, for the seventh time in as many appearances

on the global stage, to advance exempt from the 16-match also left Scotland, by then under Andy Roxburgh's stewardship, without a win over

Brazil in eight attempts. Then again, Scotland have not beaten any South American side in the World Cup, so it could be argued that it mattered little who they drew. Moreover, the first game of the tournament is invariably a tense affair, with both sides reluctant to reveal too much of their band.

While he would doubtless have preferred Romania and Tunisia - who Scotland drew in the dummy run yesterday but now play England - Craig Brown will take consolation from the fact that they meet such tough opposition soon-

Scotland will, however, be confident that their extraordinary run of clean sheets in competitive fixtures during Brown's reign will stand them in good stead. The prospect of Colin Hendry and company pitting themselves against Ronaldo and the reborn Romario is mouth-watering, and Leighton will be as prepared as any keeper can be for the viciously swerving set-pieces of Roberto Carlos.

As holders and therefore

beyond the first phase. Defeat round-robin tourney which Argentina and others had to endure. Brazil may lack a competitive edge. Although they won the South American Championship, Mario Zagallo's team were not up against the strongest opposition: the likes of Chile, still embroiled in the qualification process. sent virtual shadow squads, while the hosts, Bolivia, scarcely made for the most testing final opponents.

Given Scotland's history of embarrassments by so-called lesser nations - Iran, Costa Rica and Estonia spring to mind - they may be more concerned at drawing Morocco. The Moroccians, as Sir Alf Ramsey famously called them, are coached by Henri Michel, a Frenchman who guided his country to third place in 1986. Recent results include a draw

ria and a narrow loss to Brazil. The Scots' other opponents. Norway, are competing in the finals for only the third time. With many of the Norwegians based in the Premiership - Oyvind Leonhardsen, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Gunnar Halle to name but three - it promises to be like a typically "British" battle.

with Croatia, victory over Nige-

Tues 23 June (St Denis, 3.0) Grow C 4 Denmark Saudi Arabia...v. Denmark v South Africa France Fri 12 June South Africa ... v Denmark. Thurs 18 June y Saudi Arabia France (St Denis, 8.0) Thurs 18 June France Wed 24 June Wed 24 June Group D 3 Paraguay v Bulgaria (Montpellier, 1.30) Paraguay Fri 12 June y Nigeria. (Nantes, 1.30) Sat 13 June v Bulgaria (Paris, 4.30) Fri 19 June v Paraquay Fri 19 June (St Etienne, 8.0) v Bulgaria Wed 24 June (Lens, 8.0) y Paraguay (Toulouse, 8.0)

v Iran

v. Scotland

y Norway.

v. Norway.

v. Norway.

v Austria.

1 The Netherlands South Korea v Mexico Netherlands v Belglum (St Denis, 8.0) Belaium Sat 20 June Netherlands y South Korea Sat 20 June Netherlands v Mexico (St Etienne, 3.0) Thurs 25 June y South Korea Belgium Group F 2 United States t German 4 Iran (St Etienne, 1.30) Yugoslavia v Iran Sun 14 June Germany ... Mon 15 June (Paris, 8.0) .v Yugoslavia Germany. Sun 21 June (Lens, 4.30)

(Montpellier, 8.0) Germany.

Tournament schedule

Marseilles, 8.0)

Toulouse, 8.0)

Montpellier, 8.0)

4 Norway

Brazil

4 Austria

Group A

3 Morocco

Wed 10 Jane

Wed 10 June

Tues 16 June Tues 16 June

Wed 17 June

Wed 24 June

Sun 21 June

Group B 1 Italy

ı	Thurs 25 June	(Nantes, 8.0)	us	v. yugosiayia
	Group G			
ı	1 Romania	2	Colombia	
	3 England	4	Tunisia	1 hejm & 20000000, 2000000 a 1000 Fgr a 10000
	Mon 15 June Mon 15 June Mon 22 June Mon 22 June Fri 26 June	(Marseilles, 1.30) (Lyon, 4.30) (Montpellier 4.30) (Toulouse, 8.0) (St Denis, 8.0)	England Romania Colombia Romania Romania	y Tunisia y Colombia y Tunisia y England y Tunisia
	Frì 26 June	(Lens, 8.0)	Colombia	y England
		· Trok, as constan		7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 - 7 -

3 Jamaica Sun 14 June Sat 20 June (Paris, 1.30) Sun 21 June .v.Jamaica Fri 26 June (Bordeaux, 3.0) .v. Croatia.

SECOND ROUND Saturday 27 June: Game 2 (Marseilles, 3.30) Group B winner v Group A runner-up Saturday 27 June: Game 1 (Paris, 8.0) Group A winner v Group B runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 3 (Lens, 3.30) Group C winner v Group D runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 4 (St Denis, 8.0) Group D winner v Group C runner-up Monday 29 June: Game 6 (Montpellier, 3.30) Group F winner v Group E runner-up Monday 29 June: Game 5 (Toulouse, 8.0) Group E winner v Group F runner-up Tuesday 30 June: Game 7 (Bordeaux, 3,30) Group G winner v Group H runner-up Tuesday 30 June: Game 8 (St Etienne, 8.0) Group H winner v Group G runner-up

QUARTER-FINALS 3 July: Game B (St Denis, 3.30) Game 2 winner v Game 3 winner 3 July: Game A (Nantes, 8.0) Game 1 winner v Game 4 winner 4 July: Game C (Marseilles, 3.30) Game 5 winner v Game 8 winner 4 July: Game D (Lyon, 8.0) Game 6 winner v Game 7 winner

7 July, Marseilles (8.0) Game A winner v Game C 8 July, St Denis (8.0) Game B winner v Game D

150-1 200-1 200-1

258-1 259-1 <u>250-1</u>

200-1 200-1 259-1

380-1 250-1 250-1 308-1 250-1 250-1

586-1 300-1 250-1

Each way, a half the odds, places 1, 2 C - Coral, H - William Hill L - Ladbrokes

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: 11 July, Paris (8.0) FINAL: 12 July, St Denis (8.0)

All times (which may be slightly altered to fit TV schedules) BST;

VENUES LATEST ODDS World Cup Stadiums <u> 25-1 46-1 48-1</u> St Denis: Stade de France (capacity 80,000) Paris: Parc des Princes (49,000) 86-1 <u>50-1 33-1</u> Bordeaux: Stade Lescure 80-1 190-1 80-1 Lens: Stade Felix-Bollaert (41,275) Lyon: Stade de Gerland (44,000) Marseilles: Stade Vélodrome 80-1 159-1 100-1 (60,000)<u>150-1</u> Montpellier: Stade de la Mosson 150-1 **200-**1 **208-1**

HOW TO GET TICKETS

Larger allocation sought as home fans face disappointment

Managers say getting to the World Cup is the hard part. Sup- or via official travel operators. porters are likely to agree with them if they attempt to follow England and Scotland to France

will be available to foreign fans. organisations are very unlikely to In a stadium such as the Stade de la Mosson in Montpellier, their current members. Anyone which has a capacity of 35,500. only 5.000 tickets would be

available to each set of fans. For supporters in England and Scotland there are two ways of buying tickets, via the in France.

The problem for anyone not already a member of England's Members Club (which has 27,000 members) or Scotland's equiva-Just 28 per cent of the seats lent (12,000 members) is that the be able to satisfy the demands of joining now would go to the back

of the queue. French supporters applying for tickets have to supply an address and bank account number

However, tickets will be made available to 17 official travel operators around the world. Supporters wishing to buy tickets via these operators would have to buy a tickets-and-travel package. The FA said the names of the two British-based operators would be announced today, although the official World Cup Internet site has already announced that they will be Gullivers Sports Travel and

Mike Burton Sports Travel. "Since we qualified we've received 200 calls a day from pco-

ple wanting tickets," Steve Double, spokesman for the Football Association, said. "The sad fact is that a lot of people are going to be disappointed, but we want as many of that number as possible to have a good chance of following England. "They've proved in the past

that they can behave responsibly and back the team in a way Glenn Hoddle and the players

ble-free, and we would have no by the Football Association does qualms in increasing the number of tickets to those fans who have followed England home and away in recent years. As a matter of urgency we will be urging Fifa (the sport's world governing body to increase the allocation of tickets for England fans,"

Scotland will be making similar representations on behalf of their supporters, but they, like England, are likely to be re-We want them to be able to buffed. "There's simply no leeenjoy themselves in the same way way on this issue." Keith Cooper. Football Association. 16 Lanthey did in Euro 96, safe and trou-spokesman for Fifa, said. "Surc-caster Gate. London, W2 3LW

not want us to create security problems by taking tickets from here and there?"

Double added: "It is important that as many fans as possible get the chance to watch England. Priority will be given by us to the fans who followed England to Moldova, Poland, Georgia and Italy." - Guy Hodgson

England Members Club.

(35,500)

(38,500)

St Etienne: Stade

Nantes: Stade de la Beaujoire

Geoffroy-Guichard (36,000)

Toulouse: Stade Municipal

Leading ice dance

pairs excluded

from Olympics



John McEnroe shows there is still some spring in his legs as he serves in his defeat of Guillermo Vilas at the Albert Hall yesterday

Rusedski out of Albert Hall event

The years will roll back at the Royal Albert Hall this afternoon when Bjorn Borg plays John

McEnroe on a British court for the first time since the 1981 Wimbledon final. Yesterday, however, the non-appearance of one

of the current generation, Greg Rusedski, was the talk he hind the scenes at the Honda Challenge.

John Roberts reports. When the golden oldies began to take the court at the Royal Albert Hall vesterday, Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, was conspicuous by his absence mara.

doubles players. The organisers had been in-

from the supporting east of

back injury.

"We're very disappointed to hear Greg is injured." Peter Worth, the tournament chairman said, "But we do find it peculiar that the morning after pulling out he had apparently been practising hard and hitting the ball well. He has assured us he will play the event in future. and we wish him well in his re-

Rusedski's withdrawal meant that the doubles event. a mixture of current ATP Tour players and prominent names from the past, had to be altered. and Tim Henman ended up partnering his coach. David Felgate. They opened the round-robin with a win against John Lloyd and Peter McNa-

· "I'm delighted to be sup-porting an event in London," Henman said. "It's disappoint- match.

formed on Wednesday night ing that Greg's not here. There that Rusedski would not be didn't seem to be too many able to participate because of a problems with him on the practice court this morning."

> Tony Pickard, Rusedski's coach, explained that the bigserving left-hander is still troubled by the injury to his lower back that caused him to retire during the recent ATP Tour Championship in Hannover. "It just has not healed," Pickard said. "His back has locked three days in a row. We practised at Wimbledon on Monday and Queen's on Thursday. It happened both times. It's not just a matter of his serving. It happens all the

> Pickard said he had been in favour of Rusedski playing in the event. "I told him it would be a good thing to play these three light-hearted matches. but we've taken the view that it's better to pull out before this tournament than during a

a mess for two days. He cannot confidently go into a match, no matter how light-hearted. The important thing is to get himself absolutely right for the

ncw year." John McEnroe received a warm welcome when he walked out to play his opening roundrobin match against the wily Argentinian Guillermo Vilas, aged 45. McEnroe, 38, did not take long to find his range and touch, and, true to form, he quickly found fault with some of the line calls. He was also warned for tossing his racket and swearing.

McEnroe won, 6-3, 6-3, a splendid warm-up for this afternoon's long-awaited contest between McEnroe and his great rival Bjorn Borg. Of all those who have par-

ticular memories of Borg, few are as poignant as Henri Leconte's recollection of his meeting with the Swede in Monte Car-

"The young man has been in lo in 1983. Leconte's victory there marked the end of an era. : Championships four times.

The flamboyant Frenchman still besitates when asked to comment. "I don't like to talk : about Bjorn, because he's my hero," he said yesterday after 6-3, 6-2 win against South Championships in Morocco.
Africa's Johan Kriek. The fact that that race will

Borg really meant to disappear from the game when he : cent years, will favour a runner first retired, baving won five : who has always looked comconsecutive Wimbledon singles : fortable at the longer distances. titles and six at the French

tried to play the same way, but he was not fast enough. The generation had changed. But : grid Kristiansen's world record of now, on the senior tour, Bjorn | 2hr 21min 06sec - set in London is moving well and playing in 1985 - may be within her reach. good."

<u>ATHLETICS</u>

McKiernan sets her sights on London

Catherina McKiernan, who ran the fastest marathon in history by a woman debutant two months ago, was confirmed vesterday as one of the prime movers at the Flora London Marathon next April.

time of 2hr 23min 44sec in in Japan. Mike Rowbottom Berlin has been bettered by only seven athletes, appears to have an excellent chance of adding another victory over 26.2 miles closer to home.

aerobic performance regularly to bother. over the last nine years.

erred on the side of caution be- ; has ruled. cause I didn't want to do too

much too early in my career." Not that McKiernan has been marking time up to now – she has established a huge reputation in cross-country, winning the inaugural European title and, tantalisingly, taking silver at the World

The lure of trying to add a world gold is still there - she will run in the cross-country event at Durham in January as part of her preparations, and has not ruled entertaining spectators with a out competing at the next World

But did Leconte believe that : be held over 10 kilometres, rather than 6.5 as it has in re-

McKiernan's marathon credentials will be tested to the full "Definitely." Leconte said, in London, however, following adding that he was more yesterday's confirmation that surprised by the Swede's she will face Liz McColgan, abortive comeback in 1991. beaten into second place by just "I played him in Stuttgart and : one second in the 1997 event. he still had a wood racket and and Hiromi Suzuki, the reigning world champion.

The Irish runner believes In-

the decision not to take four of their top performers to next

British ice skating is in a

state of shock following

McKiernan, whose winning year's Winter Olympics

The British ice dance pair If she does, it will come as preparing to follow in the steps no surprise to the sports phys- of Jayne Torvill and Christopher iologists at Trinity College, Dean at next February's Win-Dublin who have monitored her . ter Olympics have been told not

Marika Humphreys and They have always told me Philip Askew - coached by the I had a marathon runner's woman who guided Torvill and make-up," the 27-year-old Irish : Dean, Betty Callaway - are woman said yesterday. "They not of a sufficiently high stanhave been nagging at me to run dard to justify a place, the a marathon for years, but I have British Olympic Association

Britain's leading ice skating pair, Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, have also been told they will not go to the Games, which start in Nagano, Japan on 7 February.

The shock waves following the decision have been reverberating around British ice skating. Celia Godsall, chief executive of the National Ice Skating Association, said all four skaters involved were "devastated" by the BOA's decision. and confirmed that Humphreys and Askew, who were 16th out of 29 in this year's World Championships, have split up as a re-

Both pairs passed the Olympic selection requirements of skating's international body, tournament in Vienna.

But in April. following sustained criticism of Britain's performance at the 1996 Olympics, the BOA announced that in future it would require all its Games competitors to show they could finish in the top half of their events' world rankings.

to do that since because of in-- Mike Rowbottom · jury problems, but both had Clegg.

hoped to impress sufficiently in next month's European Championships.

"You spend your life dreaming of the Olympics, you pass the international qualification. and then what happens?" said Askew, "You are told you still can't go. I thought the Olympic motto said it was not the winning, but the taking part. The BOA don't appear to believe in that any more."

Aldred said the decision had been devastating for him. "I am 26 now, and that is my last chance of the Olympics gone," he said. "I am giving very serious thought to whether I continue in the sport.

*I believe we could have had the best all-round skating team Britain has ever produced at the Olympics, but it looks now as if there will be just one going in the men's singles and perhaps one in the women's singles. It will be a very lonely Games for

"I appreciate that the BOA is trying to raise the British game, but they are going about things in the wrong way. You can't exclude people from the very environment they need to

improve. "Our places will simply go to less well qualified skaters from other countries now.

"It is ironic that if we had come from Canada, the world's top skating nation, our performances in Vienna would have assured us of an Olympic

The exclusion of Humphreys and Askew may also mean the end of a distinguished career at FISU, by finishing within the the top for Callaway, who has first four nations at a qualifying said that this pairing would be the last she would advise.

Britain's team for the Games will comprise 35 members - significantly fewer than the party which set out for Lillehammer four years ago. But the BOA has stressed that their policy is not based on the need for economy. We want our athletes to per-Neither pair has been able form with credibility," said the BOA chief executive, Simon

SPORTING DIGEST

Basketball

Cricket The BBC has won the rights to show nightly highlights of the five Tests and five one-day internationals during England's winter tour of the West in-

Pat Symcox spearheaded South Ainca to a 57-run victory over Australia in their World Series one-day inthe reservance series one-cay in-ternational in Sydney yesterday Sym-cox hit an unbeaten 27 while helping add 40 runs for the last wicket with Al-lan Donald to boost South Africas to-tal to 200 off 50 overs. Then the 37-year-old off-spinner took 4 for 28 off 10 overs as Austrola were all out for 133 in 38 overs.

Off 10 Overs as Austrolia were all out for 133 in 38 overs WORLD SERIES (Sydney): South Africa 200 (2) overs Australia 23 (2) overs South Africa boat Australia by 67 mins.
TOUR MATCH (Cape Town, second day of Bhoot; Yushan (Cape Town, second day of Unday 19 in 13 to 13

Football

Football
Milan Cvirk, a midfielder with the Sloval shampions kosice, died in a car cta, vice Tuesday, while the clubs striker Albert Rushak, who was driving suffered complex fractures to both legs Rushak played as a substitute against Manchester United in last week's Champions' League match at Old Trallord, while Cvirk remained on the bench Grasshopper Zurich have named the

TODAY'S NUMBER

7,000

the number of kilometres football's World Cup trophy will be carried by a group of marathon runners during a six-month tour of France prior to the start of the World Cup finals next June. The trophy will be displayed at 17 French cities plus Monaco

Christian Gross, tenham Hotspur.

a new two-year deal with the club.
The Botivian international Jaime
Moreno was back in action for Middiesbrough on Thursday after rejoining the club on a three-month loan
from Washington DC Urd. The 24-yearold striker helped Boros reserves to
a 2-0 win over West Bromburch at the a 2-0 win over West Bromwich at the Riverside Stadium. Italys referees will delay the start of Golf

matches this weekend by 15 moutes in their first attempt at industrial action, as a protest about attacks on them in the media, and a lack of support from Italian football authorities. FAC CAPLING PREMIERSHIP: Fixture changes: Wed 18 Febr. Aston Villa v Man Usd (from 13 April, Sat 14 Mar Marnischer Utd v Arsenal (fitSam lack-off, Sun 15 Mar; Derby v Leeds (from 4 Apr. Sun 5 Apr. Derby v Creisea (from 4 Apr. BOHBITTON MATCH

Rest of World 🖾5 Europe (1) Lacatus 1 Edane 61 38000

America's Laura Philo kept her overnight lead intact after a third round of 72 in the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour Qualifying School tournament at Aroeira, Portugal yesterday, It left the American at three under par on 213 and two strokes clear of her French challenges. lenger Ludivine Kreutz, who also shot a 72.

GET QUALIFYING SCHOOL (Am

JOHNNIE WALKER PGA EUROPE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Marbolla) Leeding final source: 418 Soutland (A Crear & D Thomson 71) 423 Wales (S Beto & P Mayo 69, 425 Nethortons 428 Soal (Maruel Bonca 70 Maruel Morres 68, 428 England P Lyons 71 P Wesselingh 71) Franch Selected, 431 reland ID McGrare & Goughter 79 D McGraine SI GLOUGH 94 70
MILLION DOLLAR GOLF CHALLENGE (Sun-Chy) Leading Rest-mund scores: 67 P Micketon (US) 68 D Love III (US) 69 E Ex (SA) B Langer (Gar. 70 J Pament I Swer J 71 N Prace Jamir 73 N Faido (GB) 74 J Leonard (US), 1 Lotman (US), 1 Woodman (GB), 76 M O'Mean (US), 180 C Morrison (GB), 78 C Morrison (US), 180 C Morrison (GB), 78 C Morrison (GB), 70 C Rocca (III), 6 Noble (NC), 4 Kadr (Maray) Lang Wood-soon (S Kort Lin Nario-chi (Taiw) R Kaplan (SA), 68 C Leelo (Phi), Hou Morrison (Taiw), 7 Smallo (US), 27 ang Larines (Chi

NHL: Butteto 4 Anghetm 0; Montreet 2 Los An-geles 0, Boston 3 Philadelphila 0; Carolina 5 NY standers 3, Tampa Bey 2 Phoenix 1; Dallas 4 Edmonton 1, Decret 4 Calgary 3.

Rugby League

The Featherstone Rovers centre Dar-ren Hughes has retired from playing af-ter rejecting a new contract. The 23-year-old former Great Britain Acaderny international scored 28 tries in 61 appearances for the First Division club after signing from Leeds four years ago. The Castleford utility player Grant Anderson, in his second spell with the Tigers after joining them from Halifax nearly two years ago, has been put on the transfer ist. The 28-year-old former Great Britain Under-21 international's contract runs out at the end of the month.

The St Helens utility back Danny Arnold, an ever-present last season, is wanted by the Super League new-corners Huddersfield. They have been given permission to talk to the 20-year-old, even though he is under contract at Knowsley Road for another two years.

Rugby Union
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL SEVENS: Group
One: Fe 32 Western Samoa 7, korea 33 USA
19 Group Twee New Cealand 42 Sambabee 17,
Natal 38 Narauders 0 Group Threat Argentna 19 Tonga 2; Wantlers 26 Canada 10 Group
Four: AS Australia 10 Morocco 0, Socialand 49
French Frogress 12
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Weish Natonal Lesque First Division; Cross Keys 12 Pontrypool 21. Representative Metch: Royal Navy
36 R Australian Navy 3

HONDA CHALLENGE ATP SENIOR SIN-CLES TOUR (Royal Albert Hall, London): Ac-card Groups: McGerror (US) to C Vise (Arc 6-3 6-3 Page: McGerror (US) to C Vise (Arc 6-3 6-3 Page): McGerror (US) (SA) 6-3 6-2 Rossep-robit: Enter the man and Feignio (GB) br. J Loyd (GB) and P AcNamara Must 4-6 6-3 (CB) and P AcNamara Must 4-6 6-3 (CB) and P AcNamara Must 4-6 6-1 (CB) and P AcNamara Must 4-6 (CB) and P AcNamara Must 4-6

MASTERS OF CHAMPIONS WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Frankfurd: Group 1: A Huber (Gert bi M Pierce | Fri 6-3 6-2 Group 2: 1 Ma-jol (Croat bi / Spiring (Rom) 8-3 7-5.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football 30 umes, duted

FA CUP SECOND ROUND Chester v Wrosham (7.45) .. GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Stamford FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Promier Division: Drocheda United v

Rugby Union

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP Group C: Sale v Mosaley Group D: Blackheath v London Scottish (745) CLUB MATCHES; Cheftenham v Lydney

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Bormognam v

Basketball

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England v New Zoaland ist Newbury) Other sports TOUR MATCH: Clasgow v ACT tal Scor-

IT'S A ROLLOVER!

Draw date: 3 12:97. The winning numbers: 1, 8, 36, 39, 47, 49. Bonus number: 37.

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Mateh 5 plus honus pail	6	£253.875	£1523,250
Match 5	293	£3 249	£951,967
Mater, 4	18.615	£112	£2,084,880
<u>Matan B</u>	394,057	<u> </u>	£3.940.570
TOTALS	412.971	;—·—	£13,451,236

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

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Draw gives England and Scotland the chance to progress

Romania and Colombia are among England's World Cup opponents while Scotland have a glamorous game against Brazil. Glenn Moore reports from Marseilles.

England and Scotland were each handed difficult but by no means impossible tasks when the draw for next summer's World Cup was completed yes-

Scotland got the glamour: they will open the tournament against Brazil in Paris on 10 June in a match which promises to be a massive party for the Tartan Army but no picnic for the players. They will then meet the contrasting but still demanding talents of Norway in Bordeaux on 16 June before concluding the opening round in St Etienne against Morocco

England's campaign opens with Tunisia in Marseilles on 15 June. They then meet group seeds, Romania, in Toulouse on 22 June before playing Colombia in Lens on 26 June, the last day of the qualifying rounds.

Scotland, if they progress, are likely to face Italy in the second round, England would almost certainly meet either Argentina or Croatia.

and Paraguay looks like being christened the group of death - but it could be better. Argentina and Croatia are paired with Japan and Jamaica in the most unbalanced group; Italy, with Cameroon, Austria and Chile, are in the weakest.

Making an impression

(English) (7)

for an oal (4)

direction (4)

everyone) (7) 18 Not favouring railway.

new (5)

coming out and in (8, 4)

Scotsman snatching books

putting end to quiet rumble

12 Glowing rich clothing, not 30 Run away to find some-

11 Some meaner duties will do

13 Cut cakes from the other

to Metal from the ocean ap-

17 Exact measurement used

by Americans (and nearly

missing connection (3-4)

21 Island, one plunged into angry period (7)

parently good for chairs (7)

Crime perpetrated by

when in motion (7)

will play the United States in Lyon on 21 June. Their group looks certain to be won by Germany or Yugoslavia.

England have not beaten Romania since Geoff Hurst scored the only goal of the game in Guadalajara during the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. England have, however, twice knocked Romania out of the World Cup in the qualifiers, in 1982 and 1990, and drew with them in a Wembley friendly in 1994.

point in qualifying this time -

Romania only dropped one GROUP G ROMANIA. .COLOMBIA .ENGLAND

..TUNISIA **GROUP A** BRAZIL .SCOTLAND

..NORWAY

.MOROCCO

in an inconsequential draw in Dublin - and are a talented but ageing team. The same applies to Colombia, although any manager will be wary of Faustino Asprilla. Timisia are less well known, England have met them It could be worse: Group D once, drawing 1-1 in Tunis bewith Spain, Bulgaria, Nigeria fore the 1990 World Cup, durwas alleged to have butted an opponent

> The Scots have played Brazil three times in the World Cup, drawing in 1974 and losing in

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

known. They have never played

The draw had been preceded by an exhibition match lit up by Ronaldo and an unseemly scramble in near dark as spectators briefly invaded the pitch. There followed lengthy preliminaries during which the 38,000 crowd grew bored and cold, amusing themselves by jeering the French federation president and any mention of Paris. Eventually Blatter and his team began to emerge and the crowd alternately cheered, jeered, and hushed.

After the seeds were placed, Morocco was first to emerge and were placed with Brazil, but not in the opening game - this honour was to go to Scotland. France soon discovered their opening opponents, South Africa in Marseilles on 12 June. They will also play Saudi Arabis and Denmark. Then came the European pot, Scotland were first out and were given Brazil England were drawn towards the end.

The atmosphere had been building all day. The World Cup ball, the Tricolour, had been unveiled at the old port, one metro station staged an underground bar football competition, and Pele had said, depending who was listening, that England could win the World Cup and that they could not reach the semi-finals.

In the rehearsal draw, Scoting which game Terry Butcher land had been paired with Romania, a team Craig Brown did not want. England had got Brazil, whom Glenn Hoddle did want. In the real thing the roles were reversed. And so to Paris 1982 and 1990. Both they and in June and, for England, a re- season and this summer it ap-Norway, most of whose team turn here. It will be much hotplay in the Premiership, are well ter, on and off the pitch.

find source of drug (4) 6 RN air connected with me,

Discovers places in the sun? (6, 2, 5)

China supporting world conflict - a worrying thing

for the planet (6, 7)
Man holds one up, staying

Boss has you for work-

ally hotter here (7)
21 Rewriting items and ignor-

ing a fixed opinion (7)
22 Wrong and bad, I state,
endlessly (7)
26 Glaswegian, say, about to

be collared by drunk (4)

27 Real peace, source of con-

flict being removed (4)

in bed (3-2)

100m (5)



Sepp Blatter (left) takes a ball from Franz Beckenbauer while making the draw for the World Cup finals

Ronaldo a picture of excellence at the exhibition

reports from Marseilles Europe Rest of the World .

As Ronaldo's protracted transfer between Barcelona and Internazionale dragged on last peared that he was one Brazilian who did not even go through the pretence of playing for fun. His football may have carried a smile but its enjoyment had a multi-million dollar price-tag.

That suspicion dissolved last night as the young striker gave a mouthwatering display of what his country's opponents can expect next summer. Exhiwhite heat of competition but Wynalds (Urited States & Son Joseph With Clearly had a few words about the De Aris, het Sulment (Saud & Foreston, het Sulment

strolled through this imaginative ly enough when the final whisappetiser for the World Cup draw, he stretched his limbs and his mind to put on a show.

It was the individual skill of Ronaldo, the most expensive footballer in the world and the representative of next summer's favourites, which enabled an apparently inferior Rest of the World side to defeat Europe handsomely in the Stade Véldrome.

The Brazilian scored two goals and made three during a Provence, will. A full house virtuoso first-half display. and Fifa, football's world gov-Gabriel Batistuta, with two goals, and Antony De Avila, with one, were the main bene- and rain stayed away. It was cold ficiaries. Europe, who had but clear and Marseilles had scored first through Marius Lacatus, scored on the hour bition matches can only hint at through the local hero Zinedine billing with the Mexican wave. how a player will perform in the Zidane, but were not able to score again. Zidane, who grew

tle went and was mobbed by a significant number of spectators who invaded the pitch. Zidane, who had to be rescued by stewards, appeared quite shaken by the experience.

This scoreline is unlikely to be repeated in the World Cup, at least not with Germany's Andreas Kopke on the receiving end, but the beautiful setting, nestling among the snow-dusted limestone hills of southern erning body - were equally relieved that the wind had fallen come to party, a version of

Europe, with Paul Ince sitting just in front of the central de-

put them ahead after 47 seconds. had a couple of sighters then put

De Avila through for a 17thminute leveller. Six minutes later he ran at and past Fernando Hierro to score. A onetwo with Batistuta followed after 31 minutes, which ended with the Argentinian scoring. He did so again from Ronaldo's clever pass two minutes later. "Bat-i-Gol" chanted the fans. The half finished with Ronaldo's second: he was first to Adel Sellimi's long ball and, as Köpke flew out to meet it, nodded the ball past him before tapping in. This is Kopke's home ground; the match may have been a "Roll out the Barrel" sharing top friendly but it was still a humiliation, especially as Frode

> Grodas took over at half-time. Franz Beckenbauer had

roccan Nourieddine Naybet to exciting. Rangers' Gordon Ronaldo then took over. He was joined by Derby's Deon Burton who missed a clear chance almost immediately. At least he will be able to say. was here and played.

EUROPE (5-3-2) Köpke (Gern

Healey asked to take wing against New Zealand

Another England rugby union Test, another change on the wing. Austin Healey, a career scrum-half until Leicester decided otherwise, will square up to the All Blacks' stateof-the-art threequarter line tornorrow with the number || emblazoned on his back. Chris Hewett reports on the latest 19 Flimsy newspaper found in dossier (7)
20 O°? The temperature's usuradical selection departure.

> Austin Healey considers himself a scrum-haif, Phil Larder says he has the footballing skills of a top-class stand-off and Clive Woodward sees him as a sharp, spikey left wing. The Leicester Lip speaks in many tongues. clearly, but it is Woodward's opinion that holds sway for to-

Twickenham. Healey will defi- wing; rugby at this level re- per cent of Tests are won by the cial niche in the game; he posnitely out-talk Jeff Wilson, the blond bombshell who opposes him - he out-talks everyone as a matter of course - but his success in outplaying the outstanding All Black wide man will

be crucial to the national cause. Larder, the former Great Britain rugby league coach who has just crossed the Rubicon to take up a technical specialist's role with Woodward's squad, believes Healey should be more closely involved in the decisionmaking process and is touting him as a future No 10. Not even Woodward is prepared to go that far just at the moment. though. "I'm not saying I disagree with Phil," the coach said yesterday. "It's just that I've never really thought along those

"What I will say is that Austin is one of the players who has most impressed me over the last month, both in terms of his ability and his commitmorrow's second Test between ment in training. I have no England and New Zealand at problem running him on the

quires genuine pace and he is one of the most destructive tacklers we have."

With David Rees returning to the right wing to go eyeball to eyebali - or, rather, eyebali to hipbone - with Jonah Lomu, and Phil de Glanville back at inside centre following ankle problems, England have reverted to the threequarter line that finished the first All Black Test at Old Trafford just over a fortnight ago. The other Hobson's Choice mode at placing Matt Dawson inside

"I think we always identified this match as the biggest of the four and the most difficult in terms of preparation," Woodward said. "But we're approaching it positively, we have more pace with which to make things happen and we intend to play some football, to score tries. The statistics show that 80

side scoring the most tries and provides it. What is more, he they also show that England few loose forwards in history have been bottom of the league in that respect for a decade. You don't beat teams like the All Blacks by attempting to pummel

them to death, so we're ready to go the other way." Woodward knows full well that whatever else happens tomorrow, the tourists will score tries. Craig Dowd's failure to recover from hamstring trouble only increases their attacking options because his replacement changes see Paul Grayson in at loose-head prop will be Mark Allen, one of the most capable stand-off and Kyran Bracken re- ball-playing front-rowers in the world game. And besides, a certain Žinzan Brooke will be looking to mark his 100th and

> shirt by making a mark on the scoreboard. "We will be at Twickenham to win, but we will also be there to celebrate one of the great careers." John Hart, the New Zealand coach, said yesterday. "Zinny has carved a spe-

final appearance in an All Black

sesses an all-round quality that have matched - indeed. I wonder if anyone has ever matched him - and he will leave a hole we cannot fill. We won't even try to fill it."

Typically, Brooke modestly concealed what will be an emotional personal occasion within the wider All Black test a ethic. "I treat all Tests on their merits and while completing 100 games in the black jersey will be a great moment for me, it can only be properly honoured by doing the job right," he said. "How will I feel at the end? I don't know. I've never retired

before.

page 29

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country (4)

US city (5)

(4, l, 7)

24 Bright students returning to

25 Criticise religion that has

no place for one (4)

(4-3) 29 Old Arab comes from a

28 Trim coat, almost charming

people between South and

thing better than solitude?

DOWN

Ocean feature bird's foi-

lowing (4) Crucial call is what links

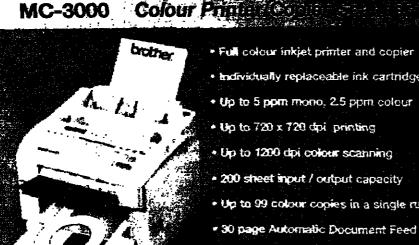
Typical old city found in

South African province (7)

Border policeman's first to

1 Agitated bear is hugging one in part of Russia (7)

openers (3-4)



* Full colour inkjet printer and copier

· Individually replaceable ink cartridges

• Up to 5 ppm mono, 2.5 ppm colour

Up to 720 x 720 dpi printing

Up to 1290 dpi colour scanning

200 street input / output capacity

Up to 99 colour copies in a single run

FREE Graphics Software included